WORLD SOCCER

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RENÉ HOUSEMAN Argentina

World SOCCER

England team manager resigns

Revie finds his oasis

by Keir Rednedge

IT'S SO easy to condemn Don Revie. Everyone's done it. To walk out on England for so-called family reasons was one thing. After three years of pressure you would have thought he could have stood another few months before Italy put an end to England's World Cup dreams.

But when it was revealed he was going to feather his nest to the tune of £340,000 tax-free over four years in the United Arab Emirates, that was even worse. It seemed he had sold his soul for filthy, oily lucre.

No one will begrudge a man changing jobs because he wants, in these insecure times, to do what he can to provide the good life for his family. What upset the applecart, gave so much offence in so many places, was the manner of his departure.

First, surely he owed better to his employers, the Football Association, than to tell them of his resignation through the columns of a daily newspaper. Good luck to the *Daily Mail*, and their soccer writer Jeff Powell, for pulling off one of Fleet Street's biggest sports scoops for years. But in leaking his intentions thus, Revie let himself down badly.

The reaction to his defection for Arabia was a stream of criticism. The old nicknames — like "Don Readies" — were brought out again, all the doubts about his role in sponsorship deals, such as the one which turned England into an advert for the Admiral sports equipment firm, were wheeled out again.

His superstitions, his 'lucky' suits — all these idiosyncrasies were repeated, examined and ridiculed.

But was this being just to Revie?

The man hasn't been born who didn't have his faults — and though I have no intention of writing an apologia for Revie, I would suggest that his critics have missed the point.

Revie went because he was a disastrous failure.

A failure, that is, as England manager.

He knew it. After his surreptitious trip to Dubai between spying on Italy in Finland and catching up with England in Argentina he made an attempt to negotiate a release from his England contract. So it's nonsense for FA officials and committeemen to say they had no idea he wanted to go.

What surprises me is that, if the UAE were prepared to pay Revie £340,000 they were not presumably prepared to wait until England's World Cup fate had been settled.

It would hardly have made much difference to soccer's progress in the Emirates if Revie had negotiated a delay until after the World Cup crunch between England and Italy at Wembley.

Had England failed, he would have been out anyway. Had they succeeded, against all the odds, in qualifying for Argentina, Revie could still have quit — with a great deal more satisfaction, I would imagine, and let someone else go to the Finals.

Where did it all go wrong?

Some cynics would say it all went wrong the day he got the England job, when the rest of the soccer world was concentrating on the 1974 World Cup Finals.

But, at the time it seemed a brave forward step for the FA to tempt the most successful of native English managers, from his club. At £25,000 a year he was being paid almost three times that of his World Cup-winning predecessor, Sir Alf Ramsey. And to earn that he stepped down at Leeds when he must have known they stood a better chance in the coming season of winning the Champions' Cup than ever before. Also their last chance.

So, he made his sacrifice.

Contract

July 4, 1974, was the date the FA came to terms with Leeds. It has been suggested they paid £100,000 to buy out the remaining five years of his contract, and immediately Revie was planning his England career on Leeds lines.

He wanted to build a "club atmosphere". But the carpet bowls and the bingo sessions which kept his Leeds players happy didn't pacify all the men he took into the England fold. And in the latter stages of his England reign he dropped the in-depth dossiers which he prepared for his players on their opponents.

Revie was a manager of fear. It was a basic part of his creed, to be wary of the other side. So wary, in fact, that eventually, instead of instilling confidence into his players, he built the opponents up into giants.

World Soccer, at the time of Revie's appointment, warned that it would be foolish to expect England's team to take on a different complexion overnight. The fact was, the right sort of players weren't available. It was a fact Revie realised, too. But, his first big mistake, having taken a dispassionate look at the players around, was to continue trying to create an entertaining team.

And he admitted to the *Daily Mail*, that as soon as he realised this, he should have "settled for a bastard of a team" rather than run himself up a cul-de-sac.

Yet look at the record of England under Revie: Only one defeat in the first 14 games over 19 months!

Ultimately Revie's problem was that he failed to get England into the quarter-finals of the European Championship, and looks like

● *Continued overleaf*

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FRONT COVER PICTURE
Rivelino of Brazil in action against Poland.

ENGLAND UNDER REVIE

Date	Venue	Opponents	Score	Result
1974				
Oct 30	Wembley	Czechoslovakia (EC)	3-0	W
Nov 20	Wembley	Portugal (EC)	0-0	D
1975				
Mar 12	Wembley	West Germany	2-0	W
Apr 16	Wembley	Cyprus (EC)	5-0	W
May 11	Limassol	Cyprus (EC)	1-0	W
May 17	Belfast	Northern Ireland (HI)	0-0	D
May 21	Wembley	Wales (HI)	2-2	D
May 24	Wembley	Scotland (HI)	5-1	W
Sept 3	Basle	Switzerland	2-1	W
Oct 30	Bratislava	Czechoslovakia (EC)	1-2	L
Nov 19	Lisbon	Portugal (EC)	1-1	D
1976				
Mar 24	Wrexham	Wales	2-1	W
May 8	Cardiff	Wales (HI)	1-0	W
May 11	Wembley	Northern Ireland (HI)	4-0	W
May 15	Hampden Park	Scotland (HI)	1-2	L
May 23	Los Angeles	Brazil (BT)	0-1	L
May 28	New York	Italy (BT)	3-2	W
May 31	Philadelphia	Team America (BT)	3-1	W
June 13	Helsinki	Finland (WC)	4-1	W
Sept 8	Wembley	Rep. of Ireland	1-1	D
Oct 13	Wembley	Finland (WC)	2-1	W
Nov 17	Rome	Italy (WC)	0-2	L
1977				
Feb 9	Wembley	Holland	0-2	L
Mar 30	Wembley	Luxembourg (WC)	5-0	W
May 28	Belfast	Northern Ireland (HI)	2-1	W
May 31	Wembley	Wales (HI)	0-1	L
June 4	Wembley	Scotland (HI)	1-2	L
June 8	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	0-0	D
June 12	Buenos Aires	Argentina	1-1	D
June 15	Montevideo	Uruguay	0-0	D

Overall record:
Played 30: won 15, drawn 8, lost 7, goals for 52, against 26.
Players used: 52.

Key: EC = European Championship
HI = Home Internationals
BT = Bicentennial Tournament
WC = World Cup

● *Continued from previous page*

failing to put England into the World Cup Finals.

A lot different was promised by his first match — aghinst Czechoslovakia, back in October, 1974, in the European Championship.

For a start there was the new team strip — by courtesy of Admiral. Then there was the Revie-introduced 'Land of Hope and Glory' for the crowd to sing before the kick-off. Revie hoped the fans wouldn't expect miracles, but, he promised: "If we have two goals, we'll go for four. If we have four, we'll go for six."

It sounded exciting . . . and England did win 3-0. But in the hullabaloo afterwards it was largely ignored that it was only the second half introduction of a couple of substitutes which upset the Czechoslovaks. Three weeks later Portugal came to Wembley and drew 0-0. The Revie bubble was already about to burst.

Sadly it wouldn't be long before the team grew used to walking off at half-time with chants of "What a load of rubbish" in their ears.

By and large Revie drew loyalty from most of his players. He had problems with Alan Hudson and Alan Ball. The one, having shone against West Germany, let it be known that he wasn't enamoured of the new set-up, and virtually asked to be left out. The second, Ball, a World Cup-winning veteran of 11 years ago, was surprisingly dropped from the team and the captaincy, but himself justified Revie's decision by some remarkably inopportune newspaper interviews.

We've said before, that Revie expected too much. In using 52 players in 30 games no-one stuck in the team throughout. He was unlucky with the injury-stricken Gerry Francis, his original choice as captain, and Manchester City's hapless Colin Bell. But in their absence he gambled wildly on repeated team changes, and none of them paid off.

It's all right ringing the changes in a club atmosphere when your players are totally familiar with each other's style. But to try that game — as Revie did in the 5-0 win over Luxembourg — with men who meet more often in opposition than in harmony, is too much.

As a club manager Revie had proved himself. But, the call of national team manager needs another approach. Revie didn't appreciate that until too late. His reign was a series of paradoxes. His teams failed to convince in victory, and failed to learn in defeat. It seemed Revie was getting it together a year ago during the Bicentennial Tournament. A 1-0 defeat by Brazil, a 3-2 victory over Italy and an easy 3-1 win over Team America provided glimpses of the club spirit Revie desired. To emphasise the promise, England then won 4-1 away to Finland in their opening World Cup fixture.

But back at Wembley in the autumn the bright summer had faded. A 1-1 draw with the Republic of Ireland, an embarrassing 2-1 win over Finland, then the 2-0 defeat in Rome by Italy.

That was the turning point for Revie. Until Rome most people were prepared to be patient. To give him time. After Rome it was clear time was running out. Revie himself was tearing his hair at the way some senior players ignored his instructions.

Then Holland came to Wembley to underline England's basic problem — lack of good enough players. It was the beginning of the end. Luxembourg were beaten, so were Northern Ireland. But Wales won at Wembley, so did Scotland, and though England may have been unbeaten for the first time in a South American tour, their defensive demeanour in Rio, Buenos Aires, and Montevideo provided nothing towards the return with Italy.

But by then, Revie knew, presumably, that from his point of view, it didn't matter. Someone else would have to worry about Italy. He was off to one of the back ends of the world of soccer.

Revie was the most short-lived of England managers (excluding 1974 caretaker Joe Mercer). Walter Winterbottom stayed for 16 years, Sir Alf Ramsey for 11; Revie for just three years, eight days.

His failure was not in running away; not in putting cash before credibility. His failure, remarkable for one of the most ultra-realistic club managers, was to ignore the evidence before him and try to build a castle on the shifting sand of players only mediocre by world standards.

The *manner* of his departure was sad and does the image of England's soccer no good. The *fact* of his departure is no loss. If England are to be eliminated from the World Cup now it matters not who is the manager for the second clash with Italy.

What *does* matter is that the new man, whoever he may be, can build on the strengths of England's football. And if Revie's reign proved nothing else, it showed that Sir Alf Ramsey was a much-maligned man.

Sibley for QPR

DON REVIE's resignation as England manager was the tip — albeit a substantial one — of an iceberg of top managerial changes in the oldest league in the world.

Undoubtedly the major shock on the domestic scene was Manchester United's sacking of controversial Scot **Tommy Docherty** because of his affair with the wife of the club's physiotherapist.

In his place United signed up **Dave Sexton,** the top coach who, after leaving Chelsea, had turned Queen's Park Rangers into one of the most attractive and progressive English teams. QPR filled the gap by appointing Sexton's erstwhile deputy, **Frank Sibley,** a former wing half with the club.

Another surprise in London was the split between Chelsea, who had just earned promotion from the second division, and manager **Eddie McCreadie.**

The Scot foolishly tried to push the debt-ridden club into giving him a rich new contract, and threatened to resign if they didn't. President Brian Mears called McCreadie's bluff . . . and assistant **Ken Shellito,** a former England right back, is the new boss.

Meanwhile **Frank McLintock** retired from playing at 37, while still doing a sound job in the centre of the Queen's Park Rangers' defence, and jumps straight in as manager at Leicester, who parted company peacefully from the thoughtful **Jimmy Bloomfield.**

Also in the Midlands **Tony Waddington** quit Stoke and **George Eastham** stepped up as manager, while **Johnny Giles** resigned from West Bromwich to give former Wolves, Bilbao and Sporting Lisbon manager **Ronnie Allen** a chance to return to top soccer.

Former England and Leeds defender **Jackie Charlton** resigned after creating a highly effective, if uninspring Middlesbrough.

Year of the 'Play-offs'

SEASON 1976-77 will go down in Italy as the "Year of the Play-offs" after the highly-dramatic conclusion to the *Serie B* championship.

With three teams to go up it could hardly have been closer at the top when it came to the last matches.

There was Lanerossi Vicenza on 49 points, Pescara, Atalanta and Cagliari on 47, and Monza on 46.

Cagliari were most recently in *Serie A*, coming down last year after 12 years sharing in the glory of the goals of Luigi Riva. Vicenza were relegated in 1975, Atalanta in 1973, but Pescara and Monza had never figured in the top grade.

Monza must wait a little longer. Of those top five teams, they were the only ones to lose their last game, being beaten 2-1 away by Modena to finish on 48 points, while Vicenza assured themselves the championship by taking a point at Como in a 1-1 draw.

Meanwhile Pescara won 4-2 away to relegation-bound Spal, while Atalanta won 2-0 at home to Rimini, and Cagliari beat Ascoli 3-2. If it had been left to goal difference Pescara and Atalanta would have gone up, with Vicenza, while Cagliari, despite also finishing on 49 points would have stayed down.

But the Italians don't work like that and a series of play-offs on neutral grounds was designated between the three.

The first was at Terni, where a crowd of 45,000 saw a poor 0-0 draw between two frightened teams — in this case Pescara and Cagliari. Little was seen of Cagliari's Pietro Virdis, one of the second division's top scorers, and each side had a man sent off — Francesco Casagrande (Cagliari) and Gianfranco Motta (Pescara).

Cagliari included experienced first division players in Silvio Longobucco (ex-Juventus) and Mario Brugnera (ex-Fiorentina), but their chances of an immediate return to *Serie A* faded when they lost the second play-off 2-1 to Atalanta before 40,000 in Genoa.

Goals from Antonio Rocca (53) and Augusto Scala (56) gave Atalanta the virtual certainty of promotion, despite Cagliari hitting back quarter of an hour before the end through full back Oreste Lamagna.

That was the end for Cagliari. Atalanta's 0-0 draw with Pescara in Bologna meant they had failed. Atalanta and Pescara went up — Pescara for the first time in their history.

Without much doubt they'll soon be on the way back down however. Of their fragile team only veteran goalkeeper Massimo Piloni has had much *Serie A* experience, with Juventus.

New Chelsea manager Ken Shellito

Names in the news

DRAGAN DZAJIC will be back in the familiar No 11 shirt of Red Star Belgrade next season. The 31-year-old Yugoslav has returned home after helping the Corsican club, Bastia, into the UEFA Cup. Whether he plays again for Yugoslavia is doubtful. A few months ago he turned down the chance of a farewell appearance against West Germany because it was "much too far to fly for a mere few minutes' football."

KEVIN KEEGAN's duties with Hamburg have already begun. The club used an appearance by the ex-Liverpool star at their offices as a big draw to encourage fans to meet Keegan and obtain his autograph. All around him tickets were on sale for the match with Liverpool which is part of the transfer deal . . .

EMERSON LEAO, 28 a few days after Brazil's 1-0 World Cup victory over Peru, is being hailed as Brazil's greatest goalkeeper after his performance that night in Cali. But Leao isn't interested in capitalising on his fame with a lucrative European contract. An agent who approached him with tentative offers from several Spanish clubs was sent away with a flea in his ear.

WOLFGANG OVERATH seems determined to maintain his decision to retire. Despite a host of offers from West German first and second division clubs, the former Köln midfielder remains adamant that he is happy to be out of the rat-race and settling down well to the idea of his post with the Adidas sports equipment firm.

NORBERTO ALONSO, midfield star of Argentina's European tour a few years back, is returning to River Plate. For the past year Alonso has been labouring with Marseille in France. He is the first Argentine star to return home under an AFA-encouraged scheme for the major clubs to repatriate top emigrants to help strengthen the national team for the World Cup. River and San Lorenzo are both interested in the Atletico Madrid reserve, Ramon Heredia. But the Argentinians have sadly discovered there isn't nearly enough money in the kitty to bring back men such as Osvaldo Piazza (Saint-Etienne) or Mario Kempes (Valencia).

ZEZE MOREIRA, Brazil's manager in the 1954 World Cup Finals, has quit South American champions, Cruzeiro, on the eve of the Copa Libertadores semi-finals. Moreira takes over at Botofogo. His successor at Cruzeiro is Arturo Youstrich.

Toye leaves... Bradley

Strange at the C

Eddie Firmani.

IF you look at the attendance figures for the Cosmos home games — they include an all-time USA record for a soccer game, 62,394 — you might imagine a club where everything is smiles and sunshine.

How wrong you would be. The Cosmos are in a lot of trouble, both on and off the field. Power struggles, personality conflicts, rumours, disorganisation are the current hallmarks of the club that now boasts two World-Cup-winning captains — Beckenbauer and Carlos Alberto — on its roster.

On June 14, only five days before that record crowd, came the first bombshell. A press conference at which Cosmos president Clive Toye announced that he was resigning. Toye? Who had been, with the club from its very start in 1971, who was the man behind the big-name deals that had made the Cosmos one of the most talked about clubs in world soccer? After all that, Toye was resigning? It did not seem believable at the time, and subsequent knowledge confirms the first impression.

Toye did not resign. He was ousted, fired if you like, as the result of a power struggle within Warner Communications, the huge business conglomerate that is the owner of the Cosmos. The immediate culprits were assumed to be the Ertegun brothers: Nesuhi and Ahmet Ertegun, from Turkey, both executives in Warner's lucrative recording companies. Nesuhi was the club's original President.

There had been differences of opinion in the past between Toye and the Erteguns on how the club should be run, and — more spectacularly — on player acquisitions. In particular, Nesuhi had at one point insisted that the Cosmos sign Alan Ball. Toye had refused, and had got his way. Later, the Erteguns had ordered the signing of Erol Yasin, a hitherto unheard of Turkish goalkeeper, presumably for no other reason than to have a Turk on the team. Yasin was signed and has since proved to be a very average sort of player.

The new President of the Cosmos, taking over from Toye, is Ahmet Ertegun. He comes fresh from his triumphs with rock stars and gold records; whether or not that qualifies him to run a soccer club remains to be seen.

Another mystery is why Toye agreed to go quietly. At the press conference it was announced that he would continue to work for the Cosmos in an advisory role. Evidently a smokescreen, another way of saying that he had been given a generous financial settlement. I have no reason to believe that Toye left the Cosmos with anything other than bad feelings. Certainly when I spoke to him a month later, he had the air of a very embittered man.

Toye's departure raised another question: how long would Gordon Bradley last as coach? Bradley was very much Toye's man, and even before Toye's exit had been under criticism because of the Cosmos' lack of consistency.

We did not have to wait too long for the answer. On Thursday July 7, another hastily-called press conference (so hastily that yours truly was not invited, an oversight no doubt). And another resignation. Gordon Bradley had stepped aside, he would remain with the club as, what was it? — director of player development, something like that. The new coach would be Eddie Firmani, formerly coach of the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

No surprise

That Bradley should have euphemistically resigned caused no surprise. But the arrival of Firmani raised some eyebrows, at least among those of us with moderately long memories and moderately suspicious minds.

To understand why, we have to go back a bit, back to May 29 of this year. That was one of the Cosmos' glory days, well, it should have been. Beckenbauer's first game as a Cosmos player, national (nay, worldwide) television, a 45,000 crowd in Tampa. What more could you ask? And the Cosmos made a mess of it, playing badly, and losing 2-4 to the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

The triumphant Rowdies coach was none other than Eddie Firmani. His team then stood at seven wins and three losses and looked headed for another fine season. Strange indeed, then, that just five days later Firmani should announce that he had resigned, walking out on the Rowdies with more than half of a two-year contract (worth some $30,000 a year) remaining. He cited personal reasons, which were later explained as "front office interference."

Well, that was hardly a secret. There had been the celebrated Rodney Marsh case earlier this year, when Firmani had publicly announced that he would not have Marsh back on the Rowdies, and had promptly had to eat his words when Marsh was signed by the front office. That would have seemed like the opportune moment to resign, but Firmani had done nothing. So why was he quitting now?

Because, said the rumours, he was about to sign with Cosmos. Rumours that were immediately denied by everyone. Yet facts began to emerge that were, to put it mildly, rather intriguing.

It turned out that only two days before his resignation, Firmani had made a lightning visit to New York — or New Jersey, more accurately.

Firmani had arrived in Newark at 10 pm, was met by one Vito Bavaro, and Driven to Giants Stadium where the Cosmos were playing an exhibition game against Lazio of Italy. Firmani could not have seen more than five minutes of the game. What was that all about?

"I came to discuss my situation at Tampa with Vito, an old friend of mine," says Firmani. "He had talked me out of resigning twice before this." Firmani few back to Tampa early the following morning, and the day after that he told the Rowdies he was quitting.

The Rowdies at first refused to accept Firmani's resignation. Then when they learned of his visit to New York, they retained a lawyer and refused to release him from his contract.

The clear implication of all that was that the Rowdies suspected Firmani had been illegally lured away by the Cosmos. The matter was reported to NASL Commissioner Phil Woosnam.

During the next month, the Rowdies appointed a new coach, the Cosmos continued under Gordon Bradley, and Eddie Firmani sat at home doing nothing. On July 3, I spoke by telephone with Firmani. He complained that the Rowdies were preventing him from working; he had had inquiries from the Canadian national team and from the owners of the new team that will operate next year in Denver. Asked about the Cosmos, Firmani replied: "Well, if they talk to me, I might be interested" and then stopped all further meaningful conversation with, "My lawyers have told me not to discuss the matter, as my phone may be tapped."

The official version of the subse-

resigns... Firmani arrives

goings on osmos

From PAUL GARDNER in New York

quent events is as follows: the Cosmos approached the Rowdies (for the first time) on July 5 asking if they could speak to Firmani. They were given permission. Two days later Firmani became the new Cosmos coach.

Another curiosity: part of the agreement between the two clubs was that the Cosmos and the Rowdies should play an exhibition game with the Rowdies taking the bulk of the gate. That could be viewed as some sort of compensation to the Rowdies, but compensation for what? Neither club now maintains that anything illegal happened, the official Rowdies view is that the matter is now "a dead issue" at least that is what their General Manager Beau Rogers told me, (not without stiffening his upper lip, I suspect).

Officially, then, all is well, there is now nothing for the Commissioner's office to investigate. Eddie Firmani has doubled his salary and has escaped from the dreaded front-office interference. And there is a huge irony in that. Because some recent Cosmos events surely suggest that interference is not something that is limited to Tampa.

I have already mentioned Toye's battles with the Erteguns. After Toye's departure, the pressure shifted to Bradley. He was ordered to start Yasin, the Turkish goalkeeper. Then came the Smith incident: Bobby Smith, the Cosmos' totally undisciplined American fullback, miffed at not being selected for the first team, disrupted a team meeting by knocking over a blackboard, spitting, and threatening to get into a fight with Bradley.

Smith was suspended and Bradley publicly announced that Smith would never play for the Cosmos again. Shortly after that, the team was in Vancouver, when the Cosmos office in New York announced that Smith had been reinstated and was flying out to Vancouver to join the team.

Bradley called New York from Vancouver and asked if this was true? Yes, he was told, Smith will be on the next plane out. In that case said Bradley, I shall be on the next plane back to New York. Advised of the row, Pele and assistant coach Julio Mazzei announced that they too would return to New York. Management backed down. One week later, Bradley "resigned".

One might profitably ask at this point, just who is running the Cosmos, who is making the decisions? At the time of the Tampa vs New York game at the end of May, there were three identifiable groups within the Cosmos organisation: (1) Toye and Bradley; (2) the Ertegun brothers, and (3) Steve Ross, head of Warner Communications, and his right-hand man, Jay Emmett. Which of these three groups wanted Firmani as coach?

Obviously, not Toye and coach Bradley. And I have reason to believe that the Erteguns, though they wanted a coaching change, were looking for a bigger name than Firmani. Which leaves Steve Ross, and poses another mystery. Ross knows very little about soccer. Where would he get his expertise from, to whom would he turn for soccer advice?

It is no secret that Steve Ross has developed an extremely close friendship with Giorgio Chinaglia. It is something that Chinaglia has mentioned repeatedly to me during the past year. I recall particularly a conversation in the locker room earlier this season when Chinaglia talked of "a big shake-up, affecting everyone, including maybe me, new people in the front office, you may not like them, but something has to be done." It seemed a bit fanciful at the time, but clearly it was not.

Persistent

It seems to me extremely likely that Chinaglia was the moving force behind bringing Firmani to the Cosmos. Asked whether he played a role, Chinaglia laughs and says, "No, not really. Listen, Eddie was voted the best coach in the NASL last year, and the people at Warner's feel they want the best. Of course, if they asked me about Firmani, I could only say good things about him."

There are other reasons for believing that Chinaglia was involved in the Firmani move. Chinaglia has been a friend of Firmani's since the early 1970s. Vito Bavaro, the friend who Firmani flew up to New Jersey to visit, is also a close friend of Chinaglia's. And there were persistent stories from Tampa that Chinaglia had indeed met with Firmani during the Cosmos visit there in May, just before Firmani's abrupt resignation. Stories that are vigorously denied by both Firmani and Chinaglia. On top of that, Chinaglia was openly telling teammates, well before the official announcement, that Firmani was the new Cosmos coach.

There are other reasons for believing that Chinaglia has become extremely influential in Cosmos policies. On June 26, coach Gordon Bradley dropped Chinaglia from the team to face Los Angeles. The move was long overdue, for Chinaglia has been having a woefully bad season, and is loudly booed every time he takes the field in Giants Stadium.

Without Chinaglia, the Cosmos won 5-2, yet Bradley was ordered to re-instate Chinaglia in the team. And since Firmani's arrival, we have had a practice session at which Chinaglia punched Steve Hunt on the jaw (no disciplinary action from Firmani); and at Firmani's first game, there was the sight of Chinaglia's personal business manager, Peppe Pinton, sitting on the Cosmos bench during the game (a flagrant breach of League regulations).

Positive

Asked about his future, Chinaglia says: "I'll play until I get fed up, maybe two or three years more. After that, I want to stay in soccer, that's for sure. Coach? No, never. I will see if I can do something positive — managerial or something like that."

It begins to look as though Chinaglia is playing Boniperti to Steve Ross's Agnelli.

The thought is reinforced when Chinaglia speaks of the changes so far: "The things that have been done have been done with thought, and they've been done well. The club is now getting on to the level of being a professional club. There's going to be more changes I think. You can sense that it's more professional, no more lackadaisical stuff. We're changing things." Already, Chinaglia is using what I might call the Warner's "we".

Yet the fact remains that as a result of these changes, Clive Toye has been removed — temporarily, one hopes — from having any influence not only in the Cosmos, but within the NASL. It has to be said that the overall calibre of NASL executives leaves something to be desired. Toye was the *only* one who combined flair and showmanship with extensive soccer knowledge. The league simply cannot afford to lose people of Toye's experience.

As for the new-found professionalism of the Cosmos: attempts to reach top Cosmos executives at 4.30 one recent Thursday afternoon found Steve Ross and Jay Emmett "out of town, they won't be back until Tuesday", while club President Ahmet Ertegun had "left for the weekend."

World Cup review by ERIC BATTY

BRAZIL ...PERU QUALIFY

FOLLOWING the three nation series in Cali, Colombia, both Brazil and Peru join hosts Argentina and West Germany, the holders, in the last sixteen for the World Cup.

Both became the first to qualify, beating Peru 1-0 with a goal from right winger Gil following an error by Hector Chumpitaz of Peru, and then with Zico back from suspension and helping himself to four goals in an 8-0 win over Bolivia, Brazil became the first team to qualify.

Three days later Peru met Bolivia with both teams pointless. All Peru needed to join Brazil was a draw to go through on goals difference, but they made sure by winning 5-0.

Nothing unexpected there, though Peru are not as good as they were in 1970 and Bolivia get a final chance, slim though it is, by meeting Hungary on a home and away basis before the end of the year. Lajos Baroti, Hungary's manager for almost two years now, and a man who has led Hungary to qualification twice already (and never failed) was there in Cali to see the South American play offs and though he will not relish the visit to La Paz, where at around 12,000 feet above sea level no visitors are very happy, he should now know that Bolivia can be hammered in Budapest. Even a narrow defeat in La Paz should be more than compensated for by a thundering good win at the Nep, and that will see Hungary through.

In Africa the competition is still more than a little complicated. All that one can say for sure is that the 1974 qualifiers Zaire, will not be there again because they have withdrawn, and the 1970 qualifier Morocco have gone out to Tunisia, so a new African team will get a look at the big time.

The Asian group started with a complicated structure of sub zones that have now been settled. Australia, who qualified last time are still in with a chance but perhaps the only real surprise was the elimination of Israel by South Korea. Here it looks like a close thing between Iran, South Korea and Australia and though the final pool games got under way in June, the qualifiers might not be known until the last games are played in December.

This leaves the European Groups, where the real battles are being fought, some of them looking very tight as we start the 1977-78 season.

In GROUP I Poland look as if they have all but qualified. Having beaten Portugal away 2-0 and Denmark away 2-1 they have maximum points. Only Portugal look possible challengers but to qualify they would have to win all their remaining games, including an away tie with Poland and improve their goals difference quite significantly.

Poland however are not without their problems which revolve around the failure of their two 1974 strikers Grzgorz Lato and Andrzej Szarmach who have failed to mantain their scoring reputations in recent games. Much will depend on them though the Poles only remaining games are at home and it will be a real surprise if they fail.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	4	0	0	12	2	8
Portugal	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
Denmark	4	2	0	2	11	4	4
Cyprus	5	0	0	5	3	20	0

GROUP 2.

MOST people, even the English, are now resigned to the fact that Italy will win this group though they still have to visit Wembley in November. The outcome is in the Italians' own hands for they have to pile on the goals at home to Finland and Luxembourg.

England could conceivably make a come-back if for example they were to run up a double figure win away to Luxembourg and then beat Italy. The Italians still have the edge however for they meet Luxembourg at home after the England clash and even if they lose at Wembley will know exactly how many goals they have to win their last game by to qualify.

The doubt here surrounds the Italians' ability to get goals for in both away games against Finland and Luxembourg. Francesco Graziani in particular squandered many good scoring chances, even though Roberto Bettega still looks a more accomplished striker than anyone currently in the England squad.

Summing up, the Wembley game could be a real battle in every sense and will need a very firm referee, but barring miracles it looks like Italy.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
England	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
Finland	5	2	0	3	10	10	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	2	17	0

GROUP 3.

ON paper Austria look to have this group in hand but their home showing against Turkey was far from convincing and they owe their three point lead largely to the fact that they have already played (and soundly beaten) Malta twice.

Turkey do not have the striking power, nor the confidence to attack in strength to come back even though they did well to draw in East Germany. A vital game here will be on September 24th when the DDR entertain Austria in a game the East Germans must win if they are to stay in the hunt.

For my money the DDR will win at home to Austria, and go on to do well, probably drawing away in Vienna in October before hammering Malta at home. If my predictions come off that could put the DDR at the head of the group and lead to a very close finish.

Having seen Austria recently and been unimpressed, it will be the East Germans own fault if they fail to qualify, and if the Austrians do get through I am sure they will make no impact in the final sixteen.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	3	3	0	0	11	0	6
E. Germany	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	2	3
Malta	4	0	0	4	0	15	0

GROUP 4.

CHANGING managers in mid stream would not help the cause of many countries but Holland whose new boss is Ernst Happel (doubling up as manager of Belgian champions FC Bruges) have so many good players that they virtually pick themselves.

They lead the group despite dropping a stupid home point to Northern Ireland (2-2) but more than made up for that when, after Belgium had beaten Ireland, the Dutch went to Antwerp and won 2-0 away to Belgium who are their only rivals. On August 31 Holland have a chance to go further ahead at the top of the group when they entertain Iceland, though Belgium can catch up three days later.

Italian cattle market

THE FIGC and club presidents have at last succumbed to pressure from the players' union and from next summer are calling off the annual get-together at the Leonardo da Vinci Hotel in Milan, where most of the transfers are arranged.

The players had complained that it was too much like a cattle market, and degrading. The only problem is that next year transfer deals will have to be worked by cut-and-cover methods and via the telephone. And that could mean a field day for all those semi-official agents whom the players also deplore.

The tradition of the Milan market days started in 1950 when Raimundo Lanza, president of Palermo, travelled up to stay at the Gallia Hotel and invited all those presidents interested in his players to visit him. The story goes that Lanza carried out his transactions while in the bath and worked quite a few sharp deals thanks to the embarrassment of his rivals.

The Gallia was the centre — drawing presidents, agents, journalists and fans — until five years ago when the market outgrew the hotel and switched to the Hilton. Last year the scene moved on to the Leonardi da Vinci. Next year . . . ?

Action from the World Cup match between Finland and Italy in Helsinki.

The really critical games for Holland are in October — away to Northern Ireland which they should win on current form for Danny Blanchflower's man looked anything but good in the British championship, and then they must see off Belgium in Amsterdam on October 26th. Barring accidents it should be Holland.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Belgium	3	2	0	1	3	2	4
Iceland	3	1	0	2	1	2	2
N. Ireland	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

GROUP 5.

WHEN France drew 2-2 away to Bulgaria in the opening game, and by all accounts did enough to win, it looked as if they might qualify. Then however the pendulum swung away from them when the Republic of Ireland, much improved under Johnny Giles beat France 1-0 at Dalymount Park.

Much could depend on the future of France's 'golden boy' Michel Platini who has been linked in transfer rumours with several clubs in Spain, but certainly he seems to hold the key to French hopes.

At the moment, Bulgaria have the slightest of edges but that will almost certainly be put to rights for if the Bulgarians are no great shakes and have trouble scoring at home, their record away from home is most unsatisfactory and they have still to play both Eire and France away.

If Bulgaria should produce a mini-miracle and win away in Dublin then the group decider will be in Paris on November 16 but my view is that Eire will beat Bulgaria to go top (temporarily) and then France will slip into first place in the last game, leaving Bulgaria who are top now, bottom of the group in third place.

France have the ball in their court.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Eire	3	1	0	2	2	4	2

GROUP 6.

SWEDEN had all but qualified before the end of 1976 having beaten Norway at home and Switzerland away, with Norway beating the Swiss 1-0 between. Since then Sweden strengthened their grip on the leadership, and with Poland are the only countries with maximum points.

A draw away to Norway in September would be enough to clinch matters for Sweden but even if they lost 1-0, the Norwegians would have to beat Switzerland (away) by 5 clear goals to qualify. A four goal win in these circumstances would lead to a play off between Norway and Sweden, but all the indications are that Sweden will qualify without too much difficulty, though Norway will clearly not simply lay down and die for them.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	3	0	0	6	2	6
Norway	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	2	5	0

GROUP 7.

ALTHOUGH Wales currently lead the group by the most slender of margins and in theory beat European champions Czechoslovakia 3-0, Wales looked to have problems in attack against England. Their Czech win seems to have impressed many critics, but none of those who were at Wrexham will be misled for the Czechs were not beaten by Wales — they simply lay down and allowed themselves to be over-run.

With Anton Ondrus still suspended and Ivo Viktor now finally having decided that his goalkeeping career is over, that rules the Czechs out very firmly. They could conceivably beat Wales in Prague — but that I am sure will only help Scotland now, for there is no way that the Czechs can win at Hampden without Viktor and Ondrus. It would have been difficult for them at full strength, but if one man (or two) do not make a team, then the absence of two men can ruin a team. That is what has happened to Czechoslovakia and I cannot see anyone qualifying from this group except Scotland.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Czechoslovakia	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	2	2

GROUP 8.

RUMANIA are I feel in a false position in this group but they provide proof that when the ball starts to run for you, there can be no holding a useful team.

Spain lack punch in attack and the Yugoslavs are as temperamental as ever.

To date the Rumanians have beaten Spain at home 1-0 with the most bizarre of own goals, and then away to Yugoslavia they were totally outplayed for the first twenty minutes but miraculously survived. After that the Slavs continued to play top drawer football but couldn't finish and in two breakaways the Rumanians scored goals.

Spain could conceivably still catch them, but with Rumania having a home date with Yugoslavia they are in the driving seat and could qualify, even if it might still be a very close thing in the end.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Spain	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

GROUP 9.

THE only European group to be completed, this had to be finished early because the winners have to play off against South America's number three (Bolivia as it turns out).

With Russia and Hungary each beating the other in their home games, the Hungarians won the group because they drew (1-1) where Russia failed (0-1) away to Greece, and Hungary should now beat Bolivia to qualify.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	2	1	1	6	4	5
U.S.S.R.	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Greece	4	1	1	2	2	6	3

UEFA YES TO SEEDS

EUROPEAN soccer was wearing its "Wimbledon Look" when the draw was made in Zurich for the first round of the 1977-78 club competitions. I bring in the tennis connection because the Wimbledon event had been completed only three days before, and UEFA had again decided on a seeding system to prevent the first matches producing any nasty surprises for the big clubs hoping for a long, lucrative run through to next spring.

by Keir Radnedge

Though on the grounds of fairness in the attempt to produce even competition, the seeding — in this case of clubs who had reached a European semi-final in any of the previous five years — is a sound idea, it has one drawback.

Apart from a few ties, the first rounds are now a pretty boring, straightforward procession of expected winners. Not that the big clubs will complain. And plenty of the minnows will also be happy at the thought of a big gate for the visit of a member of the European elite.

The Champions' Cup throws up a few exceptions to the rule. Dinamo Bucharest won't be happy at having to cross swords with Atletico Madrid, and colleague Leslie Vernon was understandably pessimistic when he learned that Vasas Budapest, under new coach Ferenc Kovacs, had stumbled across Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The West German champions have a lot to prove after their poor showing in Rome against Liverpool, and it will be interesting to see how their rebuilding is going. Reports that Dietmar Danner and Christian Kulik are set to leave the midfield so soon after the sale of Uli Stielicke to Real Madrid, hardly convince me that Borussia can hope to do any better this season than last.

Another new manager, Georg Kessler, at Swarowski Innsbruck, won't be too happy that the first round takes his new club to Basle. Helmut Benthaus guided his team to a late run which saw them finally beat Servette to the championship in Switzerland in a play-off.

Dukla Prague, too, back in the Champions' Cup after a decade face extremely difficult rivals in new French champions, Nantes. Where the young French side's inexperience may count against them, Czechoslovakia's recent international failures will hardly put much confidence into Dukla.

Levsky Spartak of Sofia have different problems as they take on Poland's Champions' Cup newcomers, Slask Wroclaw. UEFA suspensions from last season mean they must battle on without stopper Kril Ivkov for eight matches (!) as well as full back Granthcharov (three matches).

The other Champions' Cup competitors with problems are Benfica. No longer are they the club with the firepower to put the wind up their opponents *before* the kick-off. They face Moscow Torpedo as outsiders to make the next round, and as I write must be hoping they can swing the joint deal to sign defender Carlos Alhinho and Angolan forward Ruiz Jordao.

Stopper Alhinho made his name with neighbours Sporting, before Atletico Madrid tried to sign him two years ago. But Atletico's medical men weren't happy about an old ankle injury and the deal never materialised. Betis then stepped in, but couldn't play Alhinho because they already had two foreigners, and loaned him to back to Portugal, to Porto.

Now Betis have decided to release him, and Benfica are favourites. Whether they will land Jordao, however is another matter. It was Benfica who discovered the highly-talented Angolan and brought him to stardom — as they did so many other young Africans — but a year ago he joined the exodus, and went to Zaragoza.

After a disastrous season in which he fell out with fellow striker Nino Arrura and skipper Jose Violeta and which culminated in relegation, he can't wait to return to Portugal. Sporting Lisbon offered Zaragoza £300,000 and Jordao agreed terms, but Benfica then stepped in with a counter bid.

Jordao would prefer Sporting — he doesn't think Benfica can offer him the same cash terms, but with the Champions' Cup coming up and with such a bad draw, he may find his old club more amenable than he expects.

Holders Liverpool gain a first round bye, thanks to the continuing absence of any representative from Albania in the Champions' Cup, and while I expect to see all the major teams through to the second round Juventus must, at this stage, be favourites for the title, with Liverpool and Celtic and Atletico Madrid next best — not necessarily in that order.

The Cup-winners' Cup continues to be accorded next place in order of preference after the Champions' Cup, despite the fact that the standard is below that of the UEFA Cup.

This year's field looks another poor lot — though it does provide one of the biggest matches of all the first rounds, in the Saint-Etienne v Manchester United clash.

Both teams have problems to sort out. Saint-Etienne will be trying to reconstruct their midfield after the departure of Jean-Michel Larque and hoping that Jacques Zimako, from Bastia, will provide more punch in attack. United, having just lost manager Tommy Docherty in the remarkable row over his domestic problems, could well suffer for the hangover under which they are likely to start the season.

Otherwise it's the same old faces — holders Hamburg, their predecessors Anderlecht, twice-winners AC Milan plus previous regulars such as Glasgow Rangers and Lokomotive Leipzig.

Hajduk Split, Koln and Porto are all likely quarter finalists but nothing more.

Trying to pick prospective winners in the UEFA Cup is the most difficult task of all. Dynamo Kiev and Torino look the hardest to beat — which is perhaps the best way to consider the field.

The big names are there in Barcelona and Johan Cruyff, Bayern Munich with Gerd Muller and Sepp Maier, PSV Eindhoven with the van der Kerkhof twins and a host of honest performers through Ferencvaros, Bilbao, Servette, Newcastle, Ipswich, Manchester City, RWD Molenbeek, Magdeburg, Upjest and Dynamo Tbilisi.

Most interesting will be to see how far Bayern Munich go. Are they now well and truly on the way down, or about to bounce back?

Across the three tournaments it seems as if it will be between England and Italy as to whose complement of clubs go the furthest. But that rivalry, no doubt, will have been overshadowed long before the finals, by the World Cup decider.

England international Kevin Keegan, third from left, bottom row, poses with his new Hamburg SV team-mates in Germany.

Dutch still look to Cruyff

AFTER their victory against Belgium the Dutch are confident of reaching the World Cup finals. The 2-0 win at Wembley against England boosted the confidence of the Dutch players which was at a low ebb following their European Championship defeat against Czechoslovakia in 1976.

Yet it is incredible that Holland look set for Argentina. There has been nothing but trouble since their World Cup Final appearance against West Germany in 1974. After that defeat manager Rinus Michels quit; Fahdrone quit; George Knobel quit; Zwartkruis quit; Hertha BSC Berlin coach Kessler didn't want the job. But in the meantime Holland played better than ever before, including the *Weltmeisterschaft* in Munich.

Perhaps the answer is that Cruyff and Neeskens still want to come from Spain to play for Holland. It is expensive: the Dutch FA had to pay Barcelona a huge fee to release Cruyff to play against England, because the Spanish club had a friendly match the same day.

Opinion

Mix together the best players still in Holland with the "exports" and you have a side which can think in terms of winning the World Cup. If Cruyff goes to Argentina. But he won't. The former NASL player Janusz Kowalik, now living in Holland, recently told me that in his opinion Argentina, Poland (his native country), and Holland are favourites for 1978. Maybe so: but Holland will not stand a fair chance unless Cruyff changes his mind about playing in the World Cup finals.

The new league season in Holland is due to start on August 14. There a number of teams this year which could land the title, but last year's top four should be the contenders again. AZ '67 could be the team to watch, though they will also be playing in a European competition (UEFA Cup) for the first time. But they have several of the best players in Holland, including the newly signed Jan Peters.

SEELER REVEALS

UWE SEELER has at last talked openly about why his proposed transfer from Hamburg to Italy fell through in 1961.

Public opinion — the popular reason given — had nothing to do with it, he admitted. Helenio Herrera's Internazionale had offered Seeler a £200,000 signing-on fee plus a car, villa and all the trimmings.

Seeler was at that time the liveliest spearhead in Europe, but he says, "I didn't want to be a prisoner at Inter."

He asked for an agreement that at the end of three years he be granted a £150,000 pay-off plus a free transfer back to West Germany. That proved too much. Inter called the deal off.

"But I'm happy with the way things turned out," he said.

Ernst Happel, the new manager of Holland, is chaired by FC Bruges players after they had won the Belgian Cup.

The other three probable challengers — Ajax, Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven — are all facing problems. The atmosphere at Ajax, the current champions, is not good. Several players are fed up with the way their Yugoslavian coach Thomaslav Ivic wants them to play: the *catenaccio* style.

Defender Dushaba has already gone, to Anderlecht. World class back Rudi Krol still insists on leaving, as does Hulshoff. And even supreme marksman Rudud Geels wouldn't be adverse to a transfer, though his asking price is too high. But his wish to move is significant.

The collapse of Feyenoord at the end of last season was incredible. They gained just one point from their last three matches and the first time Feyenoord have not qualified for a European competition. The finances of the club will be hard hit.

As a result the players will have to take a cut in earnings, which won't please them at all.

PSV Eindhoven have lost star striker Ralf Edstrom, who has gone back to his native Sweden. Edstrom received enormous offers from many European clubs (including Bayern Munich) but he is suffering from a back injury and will not be able to play at the very top again. Besides, he can now build up a business career in Gothenburg where he will play for IFK.

by LESLIE VERNON

DISASTER DISMAL E

A couple of months ago in this very publication, my much respected colleague, Brian Glanville, complained about the "masochistic hysteria" concerning British football. According to him, unjustified criticism is heaped upon the standard of our domestic game, and the authors of such outbursts include "native critics, naturalised Europeans and Paul Gardner from New York".

Why sportswriters should be categorised in this way is a matter between Brian and his analyst, but the chip on my shoulder tells me that I must be one of the naturalised Europeans he is referring to. Until now I was under the obviously mistaken impression that I was "naturalised British", so to be regarded as a "European" once again after a short thirty years' residence in London was refreshing news.

Notwithstanding these personal "hang-ups", I take the liberty of evaluating in this, my annual review of the international season, not so much the British game, but the England team. A sad task indeed! This current side is undoubtedly the worst I have ever seen, singularly lacking in class, imagination, organisation, personality.

In the past, even during the dullest period of the Ramsey-era, one had the feeling that England had some potential. They were difficult to beat, difficult to score against, the forwards "looked" dangerous, without actually achieving much. But when the current side took the field at Wembley against Scotland, one sensed immediately their inferiority — it came as no surprise that they were simply outclassed by a fairly effecient, but certainly not outstanding Scottish team.

Alas, the 76/77 season must go down in the annals of football as a period of disasters for England. Just look at the bare statistics. Played 11, won 3, drew 4, lost 4! The "triumphs" came against such giants of the international arena as N. Ireland, Finland and Luxembourg — and the first two of those were beaten by the narrowist of margins!

Apart from Scotland, Holland and Italy have also "outclassed" our feeble representatives — only the Welsh defeat can be charitably described as unlucky. Much was made of the "unbeaten" South American tour, but in the three games played there, England only had one really good period — the first 45 minutes in Rio. And that trio of drawn games meant that England have now gone five consecutive matches without one single victory — so perhaps a certain amount of 'masochistic hysteria' is quite understandable.

Only the calm of Lancaster Gate remains unruffled, where such transient events as a decade of failures are regarded from the plateau of a broader historical point of view. Don Revie was quoted in a Brazilian publication, and then subsequently in "Shoot" magazine, saying that: "most English club sides are better than the England team." A curious statement and rather unclear. Does he really mean that Fulham, Mansfield, Coventry are better, or was he referring to the leading clubs only?

If so, why didn't he pick Liverpool or Ipswich or Manchester City with a few replacements for the Scottish, Welsh and Irish players? I suspect that Revie's statement was intended for foreign consumption only, as a lame excuse for his own team's feeble performances. Indeed, he had a foolproof way of dealing with the Press — admitted shortcomings readily, apologised in advance, and subtly intimated that he himself was not to be blamed. How can you ask "unpleasant" questions, when the manager walks into the Wembley Press interview room, and without prompting, declares that the opposition were far superior as he so predicted before the match?

Before anyone has the presence of mind to say: "That is true, but why is it that the opposition are habitually better?" he is off, to offer the same palliative to the T.V. watching millions. Apart from the caustic remarks that "Revie's indecision is final" and that "a certain well-known journalist will soon resign as England's team-manager" (no name, no libel action!), Don had had a fairly easy ride from the media, unlike his predecessor Ramsey, whose stubborn refusal to face facts was an open invitation to be hounded mercilessly.

Ian Evans of Wales attacks the England goal at Wembley. Wales beat England 1-0.

SEASON FOR NGLAND TEAM

Dangerous Argentina attacker Leopoldo Luque well marked by England's Phil Neal and Kevin Keegan (left). The field is littered by rubbish and paper thrown by fans.

England players inspect the Boca Juniors pitch before their match against Argentina.

Let's examine the usual reasons and excuses offered as explanations for our dismal record.

"The players are not good enough". Admittedly, the present crop do not compare favourably with more vintage periods, but there are still a host of above-average footballers available for selection. Other countries are also short of world-class players, without such dramatic effects on results.

"We play too much football". Yes, we do, but the same applies in most places where the clubs need money to pay the exaggerated wages demanded by the staff. The "blank" Saturdays allocated for national team gettogethers last season didn't "work", but if the League decided to deny this facility, it would be a retrograde step. Alan Hardaker's famous statement that "non-qualification for the '74 World Cup would be forgotten in three weeks" hasn't been forgotten . . . Such archaic attitudes make the work of the national team manager (any national team manager!) impossible.

"Our type of fotball is unsuitable for international competitions". If Liverpool can change their style, why can't we do the same on national level? In any case, playing British-style, all-action, kick-and-rush football, our clubs have won the various European Cups for a record number of times.

"The team selection is wrong". In my view, this is the crux of the matter, and it is difficult not to fault Revie. Basically, he believes in "real" football — his Leeds teams, despite all the justified criticism, played classical stuff, assured, thoughtful, cultured. But he failed to develop a "team" in the proper sense for England. Time and again he included in his squads, two players for the same position, and when one of them became unavailable he brought in a third one, and actually played him (Madeley, Hughes, etc.). Tueart scored the winning goal against N. Ireland, only to be dropped two days later against Wales, and then dragged-off the substitutes' bench to salvage a lost cause.

England, under Revie, experimented with man-to-man marking, playing without a centre-back, playing without a central striker, with the 4-2-4 formation, with defenders in midfield, midfielders at full-back, wingers at midfield etc., and quite a few more astonishing etceteras!

One England skipper openly stated that when he sits in the team's dressing room before a match and looks around, he realises that he is about to lead out a hopeless bunch of individuals. It is impossible not to blame the manager for this chaos. In the interview mentioned earlier, Revie said that he couldn't pick all the English-born Liverpool players because, for instance, Callaghan was 'too old'. Not too old to play brilliantly in a European Cup winning side, but too old to play against Luxembourg? The manager must recognise that his job is to win matches *now*, and it has nothing to do with building a team for some mythical future which might never come.

This is precisely the basic difference between the task of a club manager and a national team boss. He must, at this very moment if not sooner, settle on 22 players and a playing system for the 77/78 season. He should tell them that they will be in his squads irrespective of their club form. If a 23rd player scores a hatful of goals in the early part of the campaign, he should be ignored — this might be unfair to him, but the present haphazard hand-to-mouth nonsense is unfair to everyone!

I do not wish to advise the national team manager who to include in this "permanent" squad. His kind of player might not be my kind of player, and it is easy to pick "paper-teams" which can never be beaten, because they never actually take the field. But there ought to be room for people like Brooking, Gordon Hill, Brian Little and Duncan McKenzie.

If they can be "motivated" on club level, there should be a way to get the best out of them in the national jersey. Revie spoke with admiration about the Scottish midfield-line, perhaps not realisising that both Masson and Rioch have had mediocre seasons with their clubs. But McLeod, just like Ormond before him, wisely kept his side intact — so did Mike Smith of Wales, whose choice is limited by the small number of players available to him.

England cannot possibly get any worse, so we must cling to the immortal wisdom of that well-known football expert, Bob Hope, who said: "When you hit rock-bottom, there is only one way to go — up!"

P.S. quote of the month.

Graham Taylor, Watford's new manager: "I learned to concentrate only on players' strength and to treat them as responsible people. When we went on tour, I told them: 'Get your own passports, or you don't come'".

South American tours ... ERIC WEIL reviews the performances

May 29 v Argentina	Lost 1-3
June 10 v Peru	Won 3-1
June 12 v Bolivia	Won 2-1
June 19 v Brazil	Lost 1-3

Poor Poles fail to impress. . .

POLAND, third in the last World Cup and almost sure of reaching the finals again after winning the first four matches in their qualifying group, came to South America with a reputation which they never lived up to.

Defeats against Argentina and Brazil (two of their principal possible World Cup final rivals) were not wiped out by victories over Peru and Bolivia (one or both of which will also be in the finals, but are not expected to be strong title contenders). And a rapid jaunt through Argentina to become familiar with conditions at World Cup venues, during which they played five matches against national league clubs with poor results, failed to cause any impression.

No doubt these five "other internationals" served a useful purpose as trials, but if the Poles did learn anything, they did not show it in the last game of their nine-match tour in which Brazil thoroughly outplayed them. Their "no surprise" stereo-typed play is not going to get them far in the World Cup finals.

The Polish party was delayed on its way out and only arrived in Buenos Aires the evening before the match which was hardly sufficient time to get over the "jet lag". This could, to some extent, explain their poor second half show against Argentina. But coach Jakec Gmoch said that Argentina's physical fitness and the way they kept up the rhythm in the second half surprised him.

Poland looked the sharper and more confident side early in the game and Lato put them ahead with a superb goal after 32 minutes as the Argentine defence stopped to claim offside. But Poland's lead was short lived as Bertoni scored from a penalty only eight minutes later after a Polish defender appeared to handle the ball . . . but it looked a bit doubtful.

Argentina took midfield control through Villa and Ardiles in the second half as Poland's midfield sagged. Poland had rarely threatened goalkeeper Gatti in the first half (and less in the second). Argentina had more chances after the interval, but their shooting was poor and rare . . . except for Bertoni who ended the scoring 19 minutes from the end after troublesome Luque (although closely marked by Zmuda) had put Argentina ahead shortly after the interval.

One player to stand out for Poland was sweeper Kasperczak who also repeatedly tried to lead his team into attack, but he lacked support. The difference in the final score can be put down to Argentina occasionally producing some outstanding individual play in the second half — although they missed winger Houseman, unable to play because his club, Huracan, had suspended him as a disciplinary measure.

Poland turned the result round against Peru in Lima 12 days later (after their 5-match provincial tour in Argentina) and it was fully deserved against a team warming up for the South American final group qualifying matches, but whih showed loop-holes in defence and was booed by its 35,000 fans at the end.

Kasperczak, gaining his 50th cap in this match, was again Poland's outstanding performer, well backed this time by Lato and Deyna and the European team's fitness and speed was much superior to that of Peru. Szarmach and Deyna scored in the first half, Luces reduced the arrears 18 minutes after the break but Peru were never really in the hunt as Kasperczak almost immediately made it 3-1.

Poland played on the defensive against Bolivia two days later — perhaps fearing La Paz's strength sapping altitude — specially after Lato gave them a 12-minute lead. Argentine-born Jimenez equalised nine minutes later, but Bolivia, attacking much more, wasted a lot of time with square passes.

Poland, playing 4-4-2, were always dangerous with counter-attacks and this is how Kasperczak scored the winner in added time. But the 18,000 fans loved it and applauded Poland who showed up much more physical reserve in the altitude than most visiting teams.

Coach Gmoch said after the match that Bolivia (also preparing for the South American final qualifying group) were the best side his team had faced in South America and, on the run of the play this seemed true . . . but this was before the final match in Brazil.

Brazil leaving out two of their best forwards — Zico and Roberto — who, apparently did not fit into coach Coutinho's set-up, put up their best performance of recent months and, for once, pleased the 100,000 fans in Sao Paulo — at least for the first 60 minutes.

Poland failed to mark as tightly as Brazil's recent rivals, or perhaps the Brazilians' ball control was just too good for them with Cerezo, Rivelino, Paulo Isidoro and Reinaldo (the last two brought in for Zico and Roberto) outstanding. The two replacements scored in the first half when Brazil also missed more chances. The home team kept up the pressure in the second half and Poland tried to check them with fouls as they never got the measure of their opponents. One of these led to Rivelino's penalty which made it 3-0.

Then he was substituted by Pintinho and Brazil began to fade. Poland piled on the pressure and after a string of six corners they were rewarded with a goal by Boniek a minute before the end.

June 8 v Brazil	Drew 0-0
June 12 v Argentina	Drew 1-1
June 15 v Uruguay	Drew 0-0

THREE dull draws on South American soil may have satisfied England's manager Don Revie after what he called a long and tiring domestic season — but it hardly satisfied South American soccer fans who, by tradition, always expect something special from England, nor will it be good enough to get very far in the World Cup finals, should England qualify.

The tour was also marred by incidents in Argentina where people still have not forgotten Alf Ramsey calling their players 'animals' during the 1966 World Cup finals in England. That was the chant from the fans on the packed terraces as England trotted out into the packed (60,000) Boca Juniors stadium at Buenos Aires . . . and there were also political references to the Falkland Islands dispute and calls of "pirates" (a name with which a popular local daily has baptized England over the Islands issue).

Then came the loud whistling during the playing of the national anthem — the same anthem was politely applauded when players before the match against Scotland a week later — and the general atmosphere at the compact Boca stadium, where stands rise steeply on three sides and the crowd seems to be right on top of the players, must have somewhat affected players of both sides.

Some people called the match dirty, but it was no rougher than most closely fought contests — and the number of fouls (15 against Argentina, 14 against England) was not excessive. Most called it a poor match, but they were comparing it with the previous encounter against West Germany and it was no poorer than most games in which visiting teams play cautiously to avoid defeat.

And practically everybody, the local press, fans and officials repudiated the behaviour of the crowd and some of the Argentine players as well as the action of referee Barreto in sending off England's Cherry together with Argentina's Bertoni after the latter had punched the former in the mouth (knocking out a tooth) in retaliation for a foul. Earlier both had been booked as Cherry's close attention obviously annoyed the Argentine attacker.

Bertoni, not the type of player to retaliate, was later suspended for four matches by the Argentine FA and was unable to take any further part in Argentina's series of mid-season internationals.

England started off on the right foot in Rio where they held Brazil 0-0 after an excellent first half in which Pearson, Francis, Keegan and Watson all missed easy scoring chances, while Brazil, even with veteran midfielder Rivelino appearing lost, were unable to break down a tight English defence.

But England lost control of the game in the second half when Brazil took it into their half and only a series of brilliant saves by goalkeeper Clemence and a measure of bad luck kept them out. Although Brazil were nearer victory, their show was unconvincing

# of Poland — England — Scotland and West Germany

and they were whistled off by 80,000 fans at the Maracana stadium. In general it was a case of the South American team, with more ability than their rivals, appearing slower and wasting time.

Argentina, missing injured defender Carrascosa, half Villa and first choice goalkeeper Gatti (who was well replaced by Baley) as well as not being able to line up World Cup winger Houseman (who had been suspended by his club), had more of the ball and the field against England, but they often lacked precision and penetration against a well drilled defence, fast at getting into position. Argentina were slow at building up attacks and lacked surprise. But Argentina did have more dangerous shots at goal (six to England's four) and more near misses — twice England defenders cleared the ball off the goal line — so they might easily have won.

England got an early boost when Pearson headed them into the lead only two minutes after the start. But Argentina went all out for the equaliser and it came 13 minutes later when Bertoni was fouled by Greenhoff just outside the area and netted the free kick himself.

Later it became a battle between England's well positioned defence and Argentina's individual skill which was rarely put to the best use, so that England were never overwhelmed. Keegan, who had been preceded by quite a reputation, was rarely in the game and proved a disappointment for local fans.

The tour ended with a rather pointless match against the poor Uruguayan national team which, apart from its recent elimination from the World Cup (by Bolivia) has been unbelievably bad for some time. England played defensively and had no trouble in keeping out a disorganised attack, while they might have won the match with a more adventurous approach. It lacked excitement and goal chances and the 25,000 Uruguayan fans at Montevideo's Centenario stadium — scene of the first World Cup in 1930 — whistled both teams off.

So it was a tour which neither disgraced England, nor enhanced their reputation or prospects as possible World Cup finalists. Revie said in Buenos Aires that his team's 4-4-2 line up is not really defensive when applied properly . . . but it will have to be applied in another way if Italy are to be beaten at Wembley later in the year for a place in the World Cup finals.

England's qualifying for the World Cup finals would not be very popular in Argentina for reasons not entirely England's fault. Apart from the political undertones which tend to get mixed up with sport and the 1966 World Cup incidents which seem to linger in many people's memory, the luck of the draw has decreed that they can only come here at the expense of Italy . . . and there is a very large Italian community here and people of Italian descent forming over a quarter of the country's population.

June 15 v Chile	Won 4-2
June 19 v Argentina	Drew 1-1
June 23 v Brazil	Lost 0-2

SCOTLAND had no problem against Chile when they beat them 4-2 in the first match of their South American tour in Santiago. Chile, eliminated from the World Cup two months earlier, had disbanded their national squad and hastily assembled a team from leading First Division clubs after there had even been talk of just putting league leaders Aviacion against the Scots.

Argentina's Luque gets past Polish defenders to shoot at goalkeeper Tomaszewski.

The match had been arranged when Chile were still in the World Cup. Now there was little interest in it — after all the rumpus at home over Chile's politics — and the small crowd of barely 6,000 spectators reflected this.

Attacking most of the way, Scotland scored through Dalglish, Macari and Hartford in the first half before Crisosto made it 3-1 shortly after the break and scored a second 10 minutes from the end after Macari's fourth for Scotland.

The next match in Buenos Aires was virtually a carbon copy of the previous week's Argentina-England game. The score was the same (1-1), it was not too clean with the Argentinians chiefly to blame this time (36 fouls against them and 16 against the Scots) and there was a similar incident when Argentine defender Pernia punched winger Johnson and both players were sent off. Both had been previously booked — Pernia marked Johnson hard all the way and injured him early on — but this seemed no justification for the Scottish player receiving marching orders too.

As in the previous week's Argentina-England match, when Bertoni and Cherry were sent off, the referee (Brazil's Romualdo Arpi), did not actually see the incident and was acting on a linesman's indication. And once again the local press, fans and officials condemned the behaviour of Pernia and other Argentine players and felt that Johnson's sending off was not justified. But the Brazilian referee was showing a common fault of South American match officials. They tend to lose control and then, just to show their authority, they send off anybody, at the same time bending over backwards to be fair to the home team.

The truth is that (as against England) Argentina could have won this game, but beat themselves with unnecessary rough play instead of putting their superior ball control to better use. The sending off incident unsettled Argentina more than Scotland. To keep his defence intact, coach Menotti — who, in view of his precarious position, seems to be afraid to lose a match — had to replace Pernia with another defender (Tarantini) and pull out Gonzalez who, returning after injury, was making a difference to his team's attack.

A better attack would have found the loop-holes in Argentina's defence, specially with high balls which Scotland (who came with a reputation of being good in the air) hardly exploited. Probably Jordan (injured) was missed here and in Brazil later.

Both goals came from penalties in the second half of this often slow encounter. Argentina's Killer needlessly gave one away after 77 minutes when he tripped Dalglish and Masson netted. Then Argentina was rather lucky to be awarded a doubtful one (when Trossero seemed to be pushed near goal) for Passarella to equalise three minutes later. The local press agreed it was doubtful, so Argentina might even have lost in spite of being superior.

But at a post match press conference both national coaches were wrong. Argentina's Menotti said it had not been a rough game and fouls were evenly divided. Statistics mentioned show otherwise. Scotland's McLeod thought Scotland had been the better team because they had seven or eight goal chances to Argentina's one.

So Scottish half Bruce Rioch (who saw it from the substitutes bench) was nearer the truth. He said he had seen many a rougher league match at home . . . and I might add that this goes for Argentine league matches also. The frequent interruptions — Scotland's players also complained of being spat at by their rivals (which is not unusual) — also descended the game down to the level of a local league match.

Only after 70 minutes of almost continual attacking and midfield play could Brazil score against the defence orientated Scots in Rio when Zico netted a 20-metre free kick, followed by another long shot from Cereso four minutes later which made the final score 2-0. Earlier Brazil's attack again showed its limitations and lack of speed against tight defensive play and close marking. Scotland, on the other hand, were never dangerous in front of goal, leaving goalkeeper Leao as virtually another spectator with only one real shot to stop during the match.

● Continued on page 50

JUVENTUS used only 15 players in winning the Italian championship — thus equalling yet another record.

The same number of players were used by Juve in winning the title in 1973 and 1975, and also neighbours Torino back in 1943, 1946 and 1948. It emphasises two factors.

The first is how much advantage a team gains from staying clear of injuries and how much advantage also by keeping a well-disciplined side. Antonello Cuccureddu was the only player sent off during the season, while Romeo Benetti, Roberto Bettega, Franco Causio and Gaetano Scirea played in all the games.

Details. — Zoff 30 — Cuccureddu 29 (1 goal), Morini 26, Scirea 30 (2), Gentile 29 (1), Spinosi 7, Cabrini 7 (1) — Furino 26 (1), Tardelli 28 (4), Benetti 30 (4), Marchetti 6 — Causio 30 (5), Boninsegna 29 (11), Bettega 30 (17), Gori 7 (1).

* * *

THE FIGC have been planning ahead with some international fixtures for next season which will, hopefully, provide important practice on the way to Argentina. Venues have still to be announced, but games are set up against West Germany (October 8), Belgium (December 21), Spain (January 25), and France (February 8).

The league season will start earlier than usual on September 11, ending on May 7.

* * *

REFEREE of the Year is Milan-based Paolo Casarin, who first made his *Serie A* debut in 1970-71. He's now refereed only 59 senior matches however in seven years. Still, he deserves some sort of prize. Last season he had the responsibility of refereeing a derby match in both Milan and Turin.

AC Milan skipper Gianni Rivera with the Italian Cup after his team had beaten Inter Milan.

Causio...known a

IN ITALY they call Franco Causio 'the Baron.' Causio himself doesn't know where the nickname comes from, but he makes no secret of the fact either that he's happy with it.

He thinks it a pert description of his proud individualistic style — and he's probably right. It's not in the nature of this Juventus forward to lose his talents in a monotonous, dreary, team game.

Causio, now 28, says candidly: "Although I like the quiet life and I'm a bit shy, if I'm honest I've got to say that as a player I think I'm a little out of the ordinary.

"My role isn't very well defined, I know, but I think I'm still useful enough for all that."

Juventus fans won't disagree. In the seven seasons since Causio was recalled from loan to small clubs to gain experience they have finished fourth, first, first, second, first, second and — this past season once more — first.

All that contributes to an Italian record of 17 league titles for the club who, however many denials they float, will always be regarded as the toy of the Fiat automobile giant. He's considered now as the most outstanding player in Italian soccer.

He is one of those rare players with flair, with tremendous technical skill and a sharp shot. As one of my Italian colleagues told me: "He's the most Brazilian player we have. And he's all the better now he's settled down and matured."

Causio's original problem was that he had a matching temperament to his Latin American skill. He wasn't vicious, but tended to be easily put off his game, to be moody, over-elaborate.

Torino gave him a trial early in his career, but thought he'd never make the grade. How they must have been kicking themselves after Causio put on a series of outstanding shows as Juventus this past season pipped Torino to the championship . . . by one point.

Causio's character conversion dates from six years back when, in one summer, he married, Juventus recalled him from loan to Palermo, and he made his debut inside five weeks for Italy at both under-21 and B international level.

Causio was born at Lecco in the south of Italy, on February 1, 1949, and loves to go back as often as he can to the town where he took his first steps as a league footballer in 1964-65 with the then third division Lecce. He played three games, then moved to Sanbenedettese, where he played 13 times in the following season.

Like all southerners, he saw the only chance of making a successful career in the north and was highly delighted to go for trials with Torino and Juventus. Juve rated him and kept him in their squad for two years, but he didn't play in the league at all in 1966-67 and only once — a 0-0 draw away at Mantova — in 1967-68.

With no chance to display his teasing ball skills and acceleration, he grew restless, so Juve lent him to Reggina in the second division. Causio took his chance with both feet, scoring five goals in 30 games, then was desperately disappointed when Juve took him back . . . only to loan him out again, this time to first division Palermo.

Causio scored three goals in 22 games

MILAN BEAT INTER

News from ITALY by Keir Radnedge

SANDRO MAZZOLA went into retirement, defeated. Gianni Rivera walked off with the Cup, and then announced that, for the third time, he had decided to delay his retirement for one more year. That was the scene at the end of the first all-Milan Cup Final, in which Milan surprisingly beat Internazionale 2-0 after one of the most dreadful seasons in the club's history.

They now go into the Cup-winners' Cup among the favourites to repeat their victories of 1968 and 1973. And the sign up at San Siro and Milanello, which brings some sort of renewed hope, reads: "Under new management."

After 18 months of internal strife there are signs that at last men are coming to power with the resolution to bring about the reconstruction so desperately needed.

New president, replacing dispirited Vittorio Duina, is 40-year-old Felice Colombo, who has been the power in the boardroom for some months. Rivera becomes vice-president-designate, though he will play on for the time being, and Nereo Rocco hands over as coach to the experienced Nils Liedholm.

Liedholm may be far too optimistic in saying Milan will be champions in two years, but he certainly has the club's interests deep at heart. After all, he joined them from Norrkoeping in 1949, and stayed on after his retirement at 39 in 1961.

He became first team coach from March 1964 until the summer of 1966, then drifted off to Verona and Monza in the second division. He brought Varese up to *Serie A* in 1971, coached Fiorentina from 1971-73, and since then has been a rare point of placidity at Roma.

He is lucky to take over a team who did finish up winning something, even if the Italian Cup is such a forlorn competition that Juventus ended up fielding a team of youths and reserves and their match with Inter in San Siro drew no more than 2,500 fans!

Part of the fault with the Cup is that it is dragged out for so long. The preliminary rounds are played before the season, and the eight qualifiers play each other in two groups home and away after the league is over. The winners of the two groups meet for the title in a single game.

It's hardly knock-out cup soccer as most other countries know it, and it certainly doesn't pull the fans. Apart from the 75,000 who saw the final only the Juventus-Inter match drew above 20,000.

Inter surprisingly won that, in Turin, but then it seemed that only Inter and Milan were interested in the Cup. For both clubs it provided a last chance of success, and a last chance for trainers Rocco (now retiring) and Beppe Chiappella (replaced).

Milan beat Napoli 2-1 and 3-1, Bologna 5-0, Spal 3-0, then drew 1-1 with Bologna and won 2-0 away to Spal to make sure of their place in the final. Inter for their part, won 1-0 home and away against Juventus, drew 1-1 and 0-0 with Lecce and 1-1 with Vicenza and then won 3-0 away to Vicenza to go through.

Teams for the final:

Milan: Albertosi — Turone — Sabadini, Bet, Maldera — Morini (Boldini 12), Bigon, Basiolo, Rivera — Calloni, Braglia.

Inter: Bordon — Facchetti — Canuti (Guida 70), Oriali, Gasparini, Fedele — Merlo (Grosselli 76), Mazzola, Marini — Pavone, Anastasi.

Inter were first on the attack, forcing a couple of corners, and Milan — already without Fabio Capello — suffered a blow when Giorgio Morini had to go off after only 12 minutes.

Adriano Fedelo forced Ricky Albertosi to push a hard long-range shot against the bar after half an hour, but there was no score at the interval, and the longer the match went on the more Milan found their feet.

In the 64th minute Gasparini tackled over Calloni just outside ithe Inter penalty area. Rivera clipped the free kick into the goalmouth and Aldo Maldera beat Ivano Bordon from close range.

Inter roared upfield and Milan wasted a couple of chances in breakaways. Finally, in the last minute, Braglia swept an Albertosi clearance away from the feet of Gasparini, ran on, and slipped the ball in — 2-0, the Cup was all Milan's!

This was only their fourth success in the final and was a sad goodbye for retiring Sandro Mazzola. The Italian Cup was the domestic prize he had never won in a career spanning 17 years, 411 league games and 116 goals, as well as 70 internationals, in which he scored 22 times.

He now steps up to become presidential adviser at Inter and try to see that new coach Eugenio Bersellini fulfils president Ivanoe Fraizzoli's boast that "we will be back at the top of the league in three years' time."

Rivera goes on, however. Perhaps it really would have been too much for two such personality players to step out together.

s the 'Baron'

and Palermo were relegated, but he had done enough to make sure he didn't go down with them.

Juve, with a new coach in former Internazionale sweeper Armando Picchi had decided to put their faith in youth, and Causio was one of those key newcomers on whom Picchi gambled.

Since the autumn of 1970 he has been a regular, scoring 34 goals in 193 games, and playing almost 30 times for Italy since making his senior international debut as a substitute in the 0-0 draw in the European championship quarter final first leg against Belgium in the spring of 1972.

More chance came his way to make an international reputation when Juve reached the final of the Champions' Cup in 1973. But they went down 1-0 to Ajax Amsterdam, then at their zenith, with Causio still an uncertain quality. He still tended to be overshadowed by the straight-backed schemer Fabio Capello and the peripatetic centre forward Pietro Anastasi.

But together they made a good team, particularly with the assistance of the veteran Brazilian, Jose Altafini. In 1973-74 Juve went out of the Champions' Cup to Dynamo Dresden in the first round, but the next season it was only in the semi-finals they lost out to Twente Enschede in the UEFA Cup.

Having taken part in three European Finals — and lost them all against Ferencvaros (1965) and Leeds (1971) both in the Fairs Cup, then Ajax in the Champions' Cup — Juve fancied their chances in the 1975-76 Champions' Cup.

No go. Out they went in the second round to Borussia Moenchengladbach and when they finished second in the league, it seemed that a slide had begun — albeit, an exceedingly gentle one!

President Giampiero Boniperti, once a revered Italian international, took swift action. He brought a new coach, Giovanni Trapattoni, from Milan, and sold Capello, Anastasi and Altafini. In their place he signed Milan's tough captain, Romeo Benetti and the veteran Inter centre forward, Roberto Boninsegna.

Everyone said the balance was wrong: that Juve would flop. Instead they broke a string of records on their way to the league title, took the UEFA Cup, beating Athletic Bilbao 1-0, 1-2 in the final, and supplied the backbone of the Italian team who scored a vital 2-0 win over England in the World Cup qualifiers.

The second, decisive goal, was an all-Juventus effort. A brilliant flick from Causio wrongfooted the defence and gave Benetti the chance to cross so that Roberto Bettega could score with a flying header.

FRANCO CAUSIO'S LEAGUE CAREER

Season	Club	Games	Goals	Division
1964-65	Lecce	3	–	C
1965-66	Sambenedettese	13	–	C
1966-67	Juventus	—	–	A
1967-68	Juventus	1	–	A
1968-69	Reggina	30	5	B
1969-70	Palermo	22	3	A
1970-71	Juventus	20	6	A
1971-72	Juventus	30	6	A
1972-73	Juventus	28	8	A
1973-74	Juventus	28	2	A
1974-75	Juventus	28	7	A
1975-76	Juventus	29	5	A
1976-77	Juventus	30	5	A

Juventus debut: Jan 21, 1968 v Mantova.

A lull in play in Buenos Aires during the international between Scotland and Argentina as players from both sides receive treatment.

SCOTLAND CONFIDENT AFTER TOUR

by Alex Gordon

LET'S face it, if we are being honest with ourselves we are all a little anxious of the forthcoming happenings in the World Cup Finals to be held in Argentina next year.

The temperamental, stormy South Americans did neither themselves nor football any favours with their disgraceful, disgusting tactics in their so-called 'friendly' matches against England and Scotland.

I was delighted by the performances of the Argentinians in the West German World Cup three seasons ago. Gone was their cynical attitude. Their stop-at-all-costs tactics had been substituted with skill, pure unadulterated skill. The combination looked good. There were players who wanted to play the ball and not the man.

Rene Houseman, Carlos Babington and Ruben Ayala immediately spring to mind. They had talent, they had poise and the world applauded. But the snarl on the face of this tiger was only temporarily hidden. The vicious, frightening, brutal thuggery has returned . . . and that is bad news for soccer.

I pity poor Trevor Cherry and Willie Johnston, both sent off along with Argentinians in Buenos Aires. Cherry's crime was taking a fist in the mouth and losing a tooth while Johnston's atrocious misdemeanour was allowing his rib cage to come in contact with another fist.

It's a sickening situation. We must all be aware that the most glittering prize sport has to offer may be smeared with mud next year. An ugly scar could be left across the face of football unless the Argentinians stop the rot right now. They aren't fooling anyone . . . not even themselves.

After the games against Scotland and England a Beunos Airies newspaper, Diario Popular, Said: "How are we Argentinians going to respond satisfactorily to the millions of British Football fans who are asking if it is really suitable to play the 1978 World Cup here, bearing in mind the brutality of the home team and the complicity of the foreign referees?

"How can we wash clean our honour, stained in such a cowardly way by Daniel Bertoni (who punched Cherry in the mouth) and Vicente Pernia (who spat on and then punched Johnston), who have encouraged distrust abroad about our ability to organise a worthy World Cup? The referee did us no favours by ordering off Cherry and Johnston. They were simply victims of the violence unleashed by a crumbling team."

Another newspaper, La Prensa, said: "Argentinians frequently resorted to shameless tackles, shirt-grabbing, catching opponents by the throat and throwing them to the ground. The exchange of shirts with the Scots at the end of the game was a consummate act of hypocrisy."

Scotland are desperate to get back to Argentina for the Finals. They will have to overcome the challenge of European champions Czechoslovakia and Wales for that privilege, but Ally MacLeod's men are certain they have learned their lessons from an intriguing trip that also, of course, included games against Chile and Brazil.

Scotland scored four goals against Chile in Santiago, but by all reports they could have hit double figures if they had decided to let loose in the second half. It was heartening to note that new manager Ally MacLeod did not go over the moon after that victory.

It looked impressive enough on paper, but obviously the Chileans are having their problems at the moment and a good works side might even give them a run for their money. Still, Scotland's performance against Argentina was a mature, if not a spectacular, one.

They refused to lose their cool. They didn't retaliate and they got on with the game. Ally MacLeod must have been close to fainting when the referee actually awarded Scotland a penalty kick near the end when Kenny Dalglish was hammered to the ground. Don Masson made an expert job of the kick leaving Hugo Baley helpless, but from that moment on everyone must have realised that Argentina, too, were going to get a spot-kick as soon as one of their players was tackled in the Scottish box.

And so it happened shortly afterwards when Tom Forsyth played the ball, an Argentinian took off in Superman-style and the penalty was stroked neatly past Alan Rough.

To be brutally frank, Scotland were disappointing against Brazil in the Maracana Stadium. They just didn't get it together at all and the Brazilians dictated the play throughout. If Scotland are really to become a world force they are going to have to go to places like Rio looking for victory.

Obviously, that is not an easy task, but it is in a ground such as the Maracana Stadium that reputations are won . . . and lost. Scotland can't be happy with the fact that the Brazilians opened the scoring direct from a free kick. It's one of their more obvious tactics and although they are absolutely brilliant at

Asa Hartford (right) and Don Masson contest possession with the Argentina no 8 in Buenos Aires.

working their set-pieces, it still left a huge question mark hovering over the defence's inability to cope with that particular situation.

Alan Rough was voted top Scot on the tour by the travelling Press, but he, too, must be unhappy with his positioning for that opening goal. He didn't look impressive as he lined up the wall and when the shot was struck he was caught smack in the middle of the goal . . . and that must be about the only place where a Brazilian will NOT hit a free kick!

Anyway, the blond Partick Thistle 'keeper has proved a lot of critics wrong with his handling over the past season. He has been put under extreme pressure from all quarters, but he has come through relatively unscathed. He was supposed to be the weak link against England at Wembley, but it took that late and controversial penalty kick from Mick Channon to beat him. That, of course, was the only goal that he lost during the Home Championships and that is a tribute to his capabilities.

Midfield

MacLeod is happy with his squad of players. He has been impressed by Asa Hartford, whom he now rates as one of the top midfield men in Europe. Archie Gemmill's willingness to help at all times is also good to see. Archie is the deposed captain, but he hasn't lost heart, hasn't criticised the manager and hasn't lost faith in his own ability to come back.

Too often in the past harmony among Scottish teams has been disrupted by silly, stupid, petty squabbles. Players not willing to accept the manager's decision and get on with the game . . . players taking the huff because they have been dropped.

Now there is a team spirit about Scotland and MacLeod, a great motivator, will keep it like that. Now he is preparing for the World Cup-ties against Czechoslovakia at Hampden and Wales in Cardiff later this year.

Obviously they are going to be two extremely tough matches. Can Scotland do it? Surprisingly, the consensus of opinion in Scotland is that they will beat the Czechs in Glasgow, but the most difficult match will be in Wales . . . and that could be an accurate forecast.

Czechoslovakia are still reeling from their 3-0 hammering from Wales. Their boss Vaclav Jezek is worried and has even tried to fix up a friendly match against Scottish champions Celtic to give his players another taste of British soccer. The Parkhead side politely declined the offer to help the Czechs!

The Czechs still have problems in the air. Ivo Viktor is still struggling for fitness and his deputy, Alexander Vencel, hasn't been particularly impressive. He didn't look too comfortable in Wales and there is no doubt that if he played at Hampden he wouldn't have the opportunity to take a breather. Scotland would be coming down on him from all angles and he appears to me to be the sort of goalkeeper to lose one goal and then go to pieces. Get an early one past him, unsettle his nerves and then turn the screw . . . that could pay handsomely for Scotland.

Wales, too, have goalkeeping problems. Dai Davies can't even hold down a first team place with Everton and his manager at Goodison, Gordon Lee, has told him that he does not reckon he is good enough for him. Lee isn't known to mince his words and Davies must now be hoping desperately for a move that will give him regular first-team soccer.

Ironically, Lee made a move for Leeds United's transfer-listed Scot David Harvey, in a bid to get things sorted out at the back of his defence. Harvey, too, must realise that regular top-flight football would enhance his chances of a return to Scotland's international side.

MacLeod appears to be satisfied with his pool at the moment although he won't be afraid to add new names to it whenever he chooses. He has promised everyone a chance . . . he has no favourites and will pick the men he sees fit for respective jobs.

Scotland, though, do look well equipped to make the Finals for the second successive time. There is class and determination running through the side. Look at players such as Danny McGrain, Kenny Dalglish, Don Masson, Joe Jordan, Martin Buchan, Gordon McQueen and Willie Johnston among others. When these players really turn it on, some team will suffer.

So, the Scots are confident of breaking into the big-time yet again. Let's hope they will not regret their success if they reach Argentina.

Don Masson.

SCHÖN LATIN

Berti Vogts of Hamburg SV

THE WEST GERMAN national team completed a highly successful tour of South and Central America with two wins and two draws to its credit. Coming at the end of a long and exhausting season — which starts here earlier and finishes later than in England for instance, this was a marvellous performance on the grounds of at least three countries who are near certainties to reach the World Cup finals.

The Germans played four games in nine days in order to get used to such competitive conditions as they will encounter in next year's world tournament. The tour opened in the land where the holders are due to defend their title and they beat the World Cup hosts Argentina by 3-1, in what was their best display of the series. Next they met the physically roughest opponents in Uruguay whom they also defeated 2-0. Then followed the most difficult match against the re-emerging might of Brazil (1-1) and finally a game played in freak conditions following a tropical storm against Mexico (2-2).

The most interesting facet of the expedition concerned the use of players. Every one of the 20 Germans taken on the tour appeared in at least one game. How different to the England touring party: Of the 23 internationals who travelled, manager Don Revie only fielded 13 players, while the rest just sat it out on the sidelines!

Attitude

But this was not the only difference between the two squads. There was, more importantly, the question of attitude as exhibited by the players. Here I would like to quote Karl-Heinz Heimann, the chief editor of one of Europe's largest sports papers, the "Kicker-Sportmagazin" of West Germany, with a readership of 2.16 million.

Herr Heimann covered the German trip which coincided with the England tour and reported as follows: "One must extend unstinted praise to every one of our players for the admirable conduct on this tour. In complete contrast to the Englishmen, whose internationals, also a year before the World Cup, regard such trips mainly as a holiday, while our men put the sporting aims above all other considerations.

"In Rio, where within 24 hours both the English and German teams stayed at the same hotel, one could observe the nonchalant English players who spent most of the time sitting for hours in the lobby, or drinking heavily in the bar. Some of them descended well past midnight, unsteady on their feet with full glasses of whisky in hand, in the lift leading to the swimming pool where they started yet another party.

It was really heart-warming to compare the disciplined behaviour of our German players who knew when to enjoy themselves, but were always mindful of their responsibility

PLEASED WITH TOUR RESULTS

toward the team and manager Helmut Schön. The boss allowed them a lot of freedom, but no one abused it!"

It has been quite clearly the toughest tour the Germans have ever undertaken. The positive summary of results overshadowed any criticism, although not in every match did the reigning world champions look perfectly at ease and in harmony. Of course, this team has only been rebuilt and formed in the past couple of months.

Achieved

That the best performance was achieved in the very first match against Argentina should not surprise, for the party despite a troublesome Transatlantic journey was still relatively fresh. What stunned everybody was the extreme fairness and sporting attitude of the Argentinian fans, who even applauded the German moves and never once turned against their own outplayed team.

"We have never experienced anything like it," was the unanimous verdict of the German players and officials. "The Argentinian crowd supported frenetically their own side, but every good attacking move of ours was clapped and at the end we got the biggest ovation. Despite being temperamental the fans seemed very disciplined, there were no drunks at all to be seen. Such football crowds we would like to have back home!"

Impressed

The German side also impressed in Brazil where their clever tactics nearly brought victory — the hosts equalised just four minutes from time! In Mexico the team pulled back a 0-2 deficit to square the match and so nearly snatched a win. . . .

In the individual assessment of the players one must underline the world class displays by goalkeeper Sepp Maier in his two matches, but this was not really surprising. What caught the eye were the magnificent performances of the newly formed centre back pairing of Kaltz (Hamburger SV) as "libero" and Rüssmann (Schalke) as stopper.

These two have really hit it off and filled the void left by the departed Beckenbauer and his recently off-form lieutenant Schwarzenbeck. In midfield Hölzenbein was quite outstanding and equally encouraging were the continued fine displays by the Schalke forwards Abramczik and Fischer.

It is really astonishing to recall that two months ago no one had a clue that the national team will suddenly acquire such a lethal striking force. Klaus Fischer has now established himself as the Number One centre forward — he scored five goals in three matches in South America — so that nobody cries after Gerd Müller any more.

Sepp Maier, still in impressive form for Bayern Munich and West Germany.

Rüdiger Abramczik is his perfect partner as an orthodox winger with speed, dribbling skill and a fine sense of timing his centres. In addition, full back Dietz and midfielder Beer have improved so much that they too should now hold their places in the team.

Most observers praised the side's ability to adapt to different conditions and various styles of their opponents. For those who don't know it yet — just as there is no such thing as "continental football", so there isn't a "South American" style of play.

Uruguay play differently and much slower than Argentina; the Brazilians are returning to their own brand of football, while the Mexicans are copying European methods. Tactically the Germans gave a lesson in the arts of the modern game to all their opponents, except in the Uruguay match when Helmut Schön did not field his best side. It was also evident that technically the Germans are now on a par even with the greatest exponents of artistic soccer.

Never before had the Germans twelve months before a world series boasted such a strong and settled team as now. Never was the circle of candidates established so early. That is an advantage, but also a certain handicap which could lead to complacency.

Not everyone of the 20 players who went on tour performed so well that he should be an automatic choice for next year. As certain members of the World Cup squad one can regard the goalkeepers Maier and Franke, the complete defensive block with Vogts, Kaltz, Rüssman and Dietz, the midfielders Bonhof, Hölzenbein and Beer, plus the forwards Abramczik and Fischer.

The only "problem" position concerns the left wing. Here Hamburg's Georg Volkert, apart from the game v. Argentina, tended to fade in latter stages and he now faces competition from Jupp Heynckes (if fit) and possibly from Erwin Kremers.

Candidates

Other candidates include Nogly, Rummenigge, Bongartz and the Cologne pair Flohe and Dieter Müller. But men like 'keeper Burdenski and centre back Tenhagen, or the Bayern Munich stars Hoeness and Schwarzenbeck, not forgetting Breitner (now with Eintracht Brunswick), can also stake a claim in the 22-squad.

Incidentally, a German B-team also enjoyed a highly successful tour overseas winning twice and drawing twice in matches against full national teams of USA (4-1), Honduras (3-1), Jamaica (1-1) and the club side of Millionarios Bogota (2-2). Players like Gerber (libero), Zimmermann (full back) and Burgsmüller (forward) impressed most in these games.

Yes, it appears that the world champions are already well prepared for the defence of their title in 1978. No European country has ever won the World Cup on South American soil, but if the Germans can repeat their recent performances next year, then that traditional sequence will at last be broken.

News from West Germany by Arthur Rotmil

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

A FISH OUT OF WATER!

PELE has published his autobiography in New York: MY LIFE AND THE BEAUTIFUL GAME (Doubleday, $10) written in collaboration with one Robert L. Fish. Mr. Fish is a thriller writer, from one of whose novels that diverting film BULLITT was made. We are told that he speaks fluent Portuguese and lived in Brazil for ten years.

He himself condescendingly tells us, in his introduction, that Pele is "remarkably expressive in his native Portuguese." Would one could say the same for Mr. Fish in what one presumes to be his native English. Above all, would that he had the slighest, smallest knowledge of Association Football.

But for this monumental ignorance, for the teeth-grinding, stomach-turning solecisms of his book, one should perhaps blame not Mr. Fish but the publishers. It was surely an act of wanton perversity to choose a "ghost" who is an American, utterly unacquainted with the "beautiful game." Having chosen him, however, it should surely not have been beyond the wits of Doubleday to hand the manuscript to somebody who *did* know about football, who could have weeded out some of the grosser blunders.

For example, the word "shoot" is never to be found in the book; goals are always "kicked.". An international team is always a "selection"; a literal translation straight from that Portuguese which Mr. Fish knows so well. By the same token, a training camp is a "concentration." A full-back is a "lateral defender." A player is not sent off but "sent from the game."

Certain phrases baffle the imagination. An account of the 1958 World Cup Final, in which the 17 year old Pele scored those two quite marvellous goals, says, "and now, when he was in the Swedish intermediary:" raising curious connotations which seem to have more to do with doubtful diplomacy than with the beautiful game. Unless *this* be the beautiful game.

Sent off

But if Mr. Fish had ghosted the book with his feet, if it is bursting with crude translation, misapprehension, factual error (one, not two Russians were sent off in the 1966 World Cup semi-final; Pele had certainly not played "many times" against Chinaglia before the Italians arrived in New York) — it still has its fascination, above all in what Pele tells us about his various vicissitudes. Thus, we learn for the first time why it was he joined the New York Cosmos, and all those romantic, PRO tales about the intrepid hunting of Clive Toye (now gently set aside by the Cosmos), of Pele's own mission to convert America to soccer, are shown to be as spurious as they always seemed.

In short Pele joined the Cosmos because he was in the hole for two million dollars, the consequence of his taking rotten legal advice, not for the first but one hopes for the last time, and guaranteeing the debts of a company called Fiolax in which Zito, the old Santos and Brazil right-half, was a partner.

It should be said, in passing, that Zito has been very bad news in Pele's business life. Not only did he figure in the affair of Fiolax, but he also introduced the 19 year old Pele to the disastrous Pepe Gordo, a plump Spaniard to whom Pele handed over control of all his affairs.

Five years later, he was wiped out, and was obliged to sign a disadvantageous three year contract with Santos to make up the money, playing the last year free. Yet he still kept his promise to make Pepe Gordo best man at his wedding, though the Spaniard had opposed the "mixed marraige" to the attractive Rose, apparently on the grounds that it would be bad for business (though it is hard to surmise what could have been worse for business than Pepe Gordo.)

Having laboriously built up his fortune again after that catastrophe, having actually retired from the game he had graced so long, Pele now found himseld obliged to pay the bank loan for Fiolax he had guaranteed, and morally obliged — in his own view — to pay a huge fine inflicted on them by the Brazilian Government by breaking the law against importing certain raw materials.

Julio Mazzei, the physical education professor who had become his chief adviser — outside business — and who is with him still in New York, drew up a long list of pros and cons. Having heard it, Pele decided he would play in New York, where he has made the best of it; as his two hat tricks in Giants' Stadium in successive home games last June testify.

There is no doubt that Pele had been substantially exploited. He does not conceal his bitterness towards the Santos club, for whom he played the whole of his astonishing career in Brazil. He berates them for putting none of the vast amount of money they made, mostly out of himself and his appearances on tour (the guarantee was halved when he wasn't playing) into improving their shabby stadium. He understandibly resented the way they tried to turn the tables on him in public when he demanded more money for his last contract, representing that his demands were greedy and unreasonable. In the circumstances, he might have said, with Clive that he was astonished by his own moderation.

The confused and irrational preparation for the 1966 World Cup comes in for heavy criticism and indeed, after the meticulous organization for 1958 and 1962, seems hard to understand. A swollen group of players was trailed around Europe, from whom some of the most valuably experienced men were dropped; though Pele does not mention that an equally bad mistake was to retain spent veterans such as Garrincha, Bellini and Dialma Santos.

Joao Saldanha, that ebullient, impulsive, multi-lingual little man who became manager of the 1970 side, clashed with Pele, and was defenestrated months before the World Cup, is severely dealt with.

Pele alleges he was picking constant brawls with the fans and journalists who criticised him, and that he disingenuously claimed that Pele wasn't fit. First, Pele says, Saldanha claimed he was myopic. Then, when this accusation fell down, insisted that Pele had some obscure illness; so much so that Pele himself began to be worried lest he was suffering from a disease the doctors had kept from his cognizance. It was untrue. Pele played in Mexico and played superbly.

He is damning on the subject of Bertini, that ruthless Italian defender who marked him that day. Bertini, he says, perpetually dug him in the ribs, kicked him in the shins, punched him in the stomach in the attempt to provoke retaliation then, whenever Pele fell down rushed to the referee shouting, "Cinema, cinema!" At the end of the game, however, he ran to congratulate Pele, beaming with delight, as though none of this had happened.

Acerbic

The book, then is a curious mixture of the bland and the acerbic, the obviously felt and the obviously evasive. It is banal and disappointing in its passages on "the beautiful game" itself, with its bromides about the superiority of attacking football, its lack of hard, analytical appreciation of tactics and players, but this may have something to do with the stewardship fo the egregious Mr. Fish. Someone who knew something about the beautiful game must surely have elicited more from Pele.

As it is, we must regret the fact that the autobiography of so astonishing a player, possibly the greatest we shall ever acclaim, should have been so wantonly bungled, should have fallen into the hands of publishers whose concern was clearly commerce. The irony of it is that had they cared a little, too, for "the beautiful game," they would surely have produced a better, and a more commercial, book.

BETIS WIN SPANISH CUP

by Keir Radnedge

FOR SHEER basic drama there won't be many Cup Finals to rival the climax to the Spanish season, when outsiders Betis of Seville managed to beat Athletic Bilbao after 19 penalties at the end of extra time!

On paper it should have been Bilbao's trophy. They had won the Cup 22 times before; Betis never. Bilbao had thrashed Salamanca 6-0 in the first leg of the semi-finals; Betis had scraped into the final by the skin of their teeth, instead of Espanol Barcelona.

But Betis had one trump card — the one Bilbao centre forward Carlos Ruiz prophetically pointed out a week or two before all Spain converged on the Manzanares stadium in Madrid.

"I'd rather face Espanol in the final," he said. "Betis have Rafa Iriondo as coach and he knows us too well. Something like this always means trouble. Espanol are a better attacking side than Betis — but they're easier to score goals against as well."

Real Betis players celebrate their Spanish Cup victory over Athletic Bilbao.

Iriondo, a 57-year-old Basque born in Guernica, had previously coached Bilbao — with whom in the 1940s he won two caps as an outside right — and indeed, had led them to the Cup once.

He took over Betis early this season after Ferenc Szusza went home mysteriously to Hungary, and brought them up from seventh the previous season to fifth in the league and into Europe. Now, in the Cup Final, Betis were seeking their first victory which would bring a unique record as the only Spanish club to count in their history championships of the third, second and first divisions as well as the Cup.

The referee for the final was Jose Luis Garcia Carrion — a compromise, since neither club for one reason or another wanted a more famous name. In fact Garcia Carrion was not only completing his first season as a senior, he had refereed only 14 first division games and four cup-ties before the big day!

Teams:

Betis: Esnaola — Bizcocho, Biosca, Sabate, Cobo (Del Pozo 55) — Lopez, Alabanda, Cardenosa — Garcia Soriano, Megido (Eulate 107), Benitez.

Bilbao: Iribar — Lasa (Astrain 38), Guisasola, Alesanco, Escalza — Villar, Irureta, Churruca — Dani, Carlos (Amorrortu 60), Rojo I.

After 14 minutes Bilbao were ahead. Jose Francisco Rojo floated a free kick across the penalty box and Dani shot. Betis goalkeeper Jose Esnaola couldn't hold it, and the ball flew up for Carlos to head in easily. It was Carlos's seventh goal in three successive cup games — and the sixth with his head!

But Bilbao, tired perhaps after a long season and their UEFA Cup run, were unable to take advantage and, in the one minute of overtime in the first half, Betis pulled level.

Again it stemmed from a free kick. Julio Cardenosa — a player admired by many richer clubs — hit a free kick against a post and, with Jose Angel Iribar hindered by Betis sweeper Antonio Biosca, 26-year-old Francisco Lopez headed the equaliser.

There were no goals in the second half but, with Betis looking the more organised side, it was a surprise when Bilbao went ahead again after seven minutes of extra time. The goal was a tragedy for Betis utility player Antonio Benitz.

Brought into the team at outside left to cover the troublesome absence of the injured Eduardo Anzarda, he had been switched back to defence when skipper Juan Cobo went off early in the second half.

No pressure

Now Benitez, under no pressure, pushed a back pass for Esnaola without noticing that Dani had stolen in between them. The Bilbao forward took his gift, went round Esnaola and scored.

It seemed Bilbao were virtually there. But, with four minutes remaining, they conceded another free kick. Again Cardenosa took it, and with the Bilbao defence at sixes and sevens and Jose Ramon Alesanco limping because of cramp, Lopez got up at the far post for a second equaliser.

Lopez couldn't have chosen a better stage for his rescue act. Atletico Madrid had once turned him down because they claimed he had a heart defect. There can't be much wrong with a man who battles his way through two hours of soccer and still has the energy to get up at the end and head a vital goal!

And so to the drama of the penalty decider.

It was straightforward through the first eight. Garcia Soriano, Guisasola, Del Pozo, Churruca, Lopez, Escalza, Biosca and Irureta all did their stuff. Then Cardenosa shot wide. Dani had to score to win the Cup for Bilbao . . . and Esnaola dived to save his shot.

Sabate and Amorrortu made it 5-5. Then Spanish international Sebastian Alabanda, who had pleaded with Iriondo not to name him to take a kick, saw his shot saved by Iribar. Again Bilbao stood on the brink of victory . . . and Esnaola again came to the rescue, saving this time from Angel Villar.

Esnaola himself took the 15th penalty, and easily beat Iribar. Then Alesanco made it 6-6. Eulate made it 7-6 to Betis and the Seville fans leapt to their feet as Esnaola saved from Rojo . . . until they saw referee Carrion pointing to the spot again. Esnaola had moved, the kick had to be retaken, and this time Rojo made no mistake.

First-ever

Bizcocho made it 8-7 and, with some of his remaining team-mates refusing to step forward, Bilbao skipper Iribar moved up for his first-ever penalty in a match. His shot was weak, Esnaola saved — Betis had won the Cup!

"Luck smiled on us," said Iriondo, as his players were still celebrating the victory which was worth £3,000-a-man. Aguirre merely commented: "I think the responsibility of being favourites was a bit too much for us. At least the winner came from our own San Mames — originally!"

ERIC BATTY expresses a personal view

KEEP PO OF

FROM time to time I've had the misfortune to have to go to hospital and amongst the first things that happens is that a clerk or nurse fills in a form. Name? Batty; address . . . ; age . . . ; religion . . . Football. That's been the pattern — and I've been amused at the number of times that the person with the pen has got as far as writing the 'F' before the bell rang.

I feel the same way about politics. Of course I'm interested in social problems and I can get annoyed when Embassies keep me waiting for visas when they know I want to see a football match and they will not hold back the kick off for me while my visa application goes through. But by and large if anyone wants to know, my politics are football.

Even in Europe, where politics are interfering less now in my travels than ever before we get minor political problems. I have one that has rankled me for some time. I would like to visit Albania to see 17 Nentori play — and perhaps uncover a new Pak Doo Ik. Given time, I have no doubt I'll make it, but meanwhile it rankles a bit that I cannot go, merely because I have never seen any player or club side from that country, let alone the national team.

I say this now because there are certain gentlemen within the administration of the world game who think that they and their political ideas are more important than the game itself.

Small group

I bring this up now because the vast majority of the public are unaware of what is going on within FIFA, largely because the national press and TV in the developed countries do not think their public is interested. If they are not interested they ought to be, and I am sure that World Soccer readers are. This latter group have read in this magazine's pages from time to time hints that all is not well within FIFA, but even they do not know how far things have gone.

Though I might be treading on some toes, I can tell you quite authoritatitively that at least a small group of national associations, with England amongst them, are getting tired of footing the bills for FIFA's meetings and competitions that make a loss, and then, when attending FIFA Congresses are bored by some of the newly independent countries trying to stir up political intrigue and dominating the meetings with political dogma rather than trying to help the game develop.

Though I understand nothing definite has yet been decided, it is no secret that several European countries are approaching the point where they are going to ask for the principle of one country, one vote, to be changed.

There might in the long run even be a new World Ruling body, organised, dominated and controlled by a union of European and South American countries — and that would not help the Asians and Africans struggling to develop their football one little bit.

In case anyone gets the idea that I am political or anything else, let me make it clear that I am interested in football first and last. To me it is the good of the game that matters.

My aim is to see as much as I can of everyone that comes within reach — and quite often I go abroad looking for new players to 'discover', new ideas, new names. It can be rewarding, as when I saw Grzegorz Lato for the first time in a friendly match between Bulgaria and Poland at Varna. It can be interesting as, when, years ago I drove from London to Leeds and back, losing a night's sleep to see England's amateurs play their French counterparts.

Among the other less usual things I've seen were England amateurs v Nigeria — with the tourists playing in bare feet (and playing well); the Japanese national side who met Southampton two or three years ago in a pre-season friendly, and showed them how the game used to be played . . . and more recently I went to the 1977-78 Ladies Cup Final (though I confess I only stayed for 20 minutes). On a lighter note here, I wonder why the Ladies could not muster a Lady referee?

Arouse

My interest in football is all-consuming, and anything that threatens the game, no matter how obliquely, can arouse me. In the same vein, seeing a 9 year old do something good in a kick-about game helps to re-kindle my interest after I've seen a string of boring, tactically dominated professional matches.

Having set out my credentials, I now take a risk in bringing out a topic that may well be overtaken by events before these words get past the printers. There is currently going on within FIFA a trial of strength between the World Authorities in Zurich and a majority of the member countries of the Asian Confederation. Briefly, the Asians have expelled Israel, technically making them and their game outlaws; also expelled the Taiwan FA (as I call it), and elected to membership of their Confederation, the People's Republic of China.

All three decisions were contrary to earlier decisions taken by FIFA at Congress and therefore illegal.

When news of the decisions reached FIFA they were considered at a meeting in Monte Carlo at which it was decided to give the Asian Confederation 90 days to rescind all three decisions . . . or face the consequences.

So far there has been no indication from Asia that the revolutionaries are prepared to surrender and while August 5 is the FIFA deadline, it looks as if the emerging countries of Asia who are more interested in politics than football are going to be putting two fingers up.

As far as I am concerned no one has the right to expel Israel; the same applies to the footballers of Taiwan, but equally I feel that no stone must be left unturned in a bid to get China's millions of players into the FIFA fold. But it must be done constitutionally.

We are now in a situation where dual standards apply. The Republic of China (proper) may now meet Australia or New Zealand in friendly matches at international or club level, but they cannot without express FIFA permission play against Europeans or South Americans. They can play only against members of the Asian Confederation.

After August 5, however, FIFA are likely to change things somewhat unless the Asians rescind their decisions . . . which as yet they show no sign of doing a month before the deadline.

After that, they cut themselves off from all FIFA aid which takes the form of coaching courses in various countries for medical men and secretaries as well as players and coaches. It also cuts off a fairly generous supply of money with which they organise their Confederation meetings with members having their travelling expenses paid for them.

It could also put them all out of the 1978 World Cup and the 1980 Olympic Games soccer competition, and though FIFA would be reluctant to do that in my opinion, I would personally use that as the first salvo and let them have it on August 5. On that date I would go so far as to give the 16th place in Argentina to the loser of the match between Hungary and the bottom team in the South Americans final play off pool in Cali.

Sympathy

Very simply, while I have every sympathy with the players of Zaire (who did very nicely in 1974) and Mozambique to name just two countries, they play our game by the existing Laws or they do not play at all.

This applies just as firmly to North Korea (though I thought they were great in 1966) for they put themselves out of the 1978 series by refusing to accept the FIFA draw.

Unfortunately, and knowing I lay myself open to criticism here, it has to be said, many of FIFA's latest members are ruled by an administrative class of educated men who in many cases have government positions as well as high ranking positions within organisations like their countries' Football Association. These men are basically politicians and when they meet in Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur, they cannot leave their political hats at home and meet for the interests of the men and boys back home who simply want to kick a ball around.

As in Britain and elsewhere, the millions who enjoy playing the game on park pitches on Sunday morning probably do not know who represents their country at FIFA or what he is telling Congress. All they want is a ball and a bit of grass to play on. If they have the luxury of goal-posts, the delights of nets and — wonder of wonders — the chance to have a hot shower afterwards then life is bliss. They'll spend the first half of the next week

LITICS OUT FOOTBALL

talking about last week's game and the second half talking about the next one. I know because I used to play.

Unfortunately, many of these players are represented at international level by men who dominate Congresses with long speeches that have nothing to do with football but very much to do with politics.

We've had our share of politics getting mixed up with football here in Europe. The best example was of course the East Germans who were for some years given the right by FIFA to play international football, but not allowed to visit countries whose governments belonged to NATO.

Fortunately good sense prevailed in most cases; games even being staged in Sweden who as non NATO members were able to invite both teams to play on their soil and eventually it all blew over.

I remember too, lesser non-headline making items such as Belgian teams being invited to play in Spain but then finding that their manager, who travelled on an East German passport, would not be allowed to go with the team. Again such things are long forgotten. But we've had enough of them and it is to be hoped that those days never return.

In a bid to prove my neutrality let me state categorically that I am also totally against big business intervening in football.

I had a glimpse into what the future might hold when during the World Cup in Mexico I met FIFA officials who had just disembarked from planes owned by the Coca Cola Company.

In the same 1970 competition I often drank that product which was available at no charge at all to journalists in the press working areas and at the stadiums while all other soft drinks had to be paid for.

I predicted in this magazine that there was a very good chance that by 1982 the World Cup could be known as the Coca Cola Cup when staged in Colombia, and I still fear it.

What baffles me most about FIFA and the Coke Company is why the authorities do not advise Coca Cola to sponsor a Cup competition at home in the USA? Let them use their millions to help the game in their home country first.

Of course I know that Coca Cola's money is being used by FIFA TO HELP THE BACKWARD COUNTRIES DEVELOP THEIR GAME, but I am still very suspicious and strongly against the idea.

On the present problem, Asia, Israel, Taiwan and China, my sympathy is with FIFA but I just wonder whether Joao Havelange will be firm enough. Will he lay the law on the line and back it with World Cup suspension?

Or, a more likely course I fear, will he take a softer line with no effect and while the politico-football representatives of African and Asian countries continue to use Congresses as a political platform, the danger grows every day that the Europeans will cry 'enough' and form their own World Cup, by invitation only.

Jaoa Havelenge (right) at a FIFA meeting.

EUROPEAN HON

Goals per game	Country	Matches	Champions No. of titles	Points	Most wins	Fewest defeats
2.62	AUSTRIA	36	SW INNSBRUCK 5	53	SW INNSBRUCK 21	SW INNSBRUCI 4
2.84	BELGIUM	34	FC BRUGES 4	52	FC BRUGES 23	FC BRUGES 5
2.53	BULGARIA	30	LEVSKI SPARTAK 12	43	LEVSKI 17	LEVSKI 4
2.88	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	30	DUKLA PRAGUE 9	42	DUKLA 18	DUKLA 6
2.55	ENGLAND	42	LIVERPOOL 10	57	LIVERPOOL 23	MANCHESTER (7
2.95	FRANCE	38	NANTES 4	58	NANTES 25	NANTES 5
2.74	EAST GERMANY	26	DYNAMO DRESDEN 5	38	DRESDEN 16	DRESDEN 4
3.54	WEST GERMANY	34	BORUSSIA MOENCHENGLADBACH 5	44	BOR. MOEN; SCHALKE; EIN. FRANK; COLOGNE 17	BOR. MOEN 7
2.63	GREECE	34	PANATHINAIKOS 12	54	AEK ATHENS 24	PANATHINAIKOS PAOK SALONICA
3.14	HUNGARY	34	VASAS 6	53	VASAS 25	FERENCVAROS 5
2.22	ITALY	30	JUVENTUS 17	51	JUVENTUS 23	TORINO 1
3.25	LUXEMBOURG	22	JEUNESSE ESCH 16	34	JEUNESSE 16	JEUNESSE 4
2.81	NETHERLANDS	34	AJAX 17	52	AJAX 23	AJAX 5
2.40	POLAND	30	SLASK WROCLAW 1	41	SLASK 17	WIDZEW LODZ SLASK 6
2.56	PORTUGAL	30	BENFICA 23	51	BENFICA 23	BENFICA 2
2.55	RUMANIA	34	DYNAMO BUCHAREST 9	49	DYNAMO STEAUA 20	DYNAMO 5
2.78	SCOTLAND	36	CELTIC 30	55	CELTIC 23	CELTIC 4
2.62	SPAIN	34	ATLETICO MADRID 8	46	ATLETICO 19	ATLETICO BARCELONA 7
3.32	SWITZERLAND	32*	BASLE 7	29*	BASLE SERVETTE 19*	SERVETTE 5*
1.85	TURKEY	30	TRABZONSPOR 2	43	TRABZONSPOR 18	FENERBAHCE 3
2.10	USSR	15¶	TORPEDO MOSCOW 3	20	TORPEDO 9	DYNAMO KIEV 3
2.43	YUGOSLAVIA	34	RED STAR BELGRADE	50	RED STAR 20	RED STAR 4

* Figures include top six play-offs but not championship decider: BASLE 2 SERVETTE 1

¶ TWO CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAYED OF

OURS compiled by JACK ROLLIN

	Best attack	Best defence	Top scorer	Goals	Cup Final result
K	AUSTRIA/WAC RAPID 72	SW INNSBRUCK 21	KRANKL (Rapid)	32	AUSTRIA(WAC 1 WIENER SPORTKLUB 0 (Second leg Austria/WAC 3;0)
	ANDERLECHT 74	STANDARD LIEGE 26	VAN DER ELST (Anderlecht)	21	FC BRUGES 4 ANDERLECHT 3
	LEVSKI 73	CSKA SOFIA 27	PANOV (Levski)	20	LEVSKI 2 LOKOMOTIVE SOFIA 1
	DUKLA 61	BANIK OSTRAVA DUKLA 33	JOSZA (Kosice)	18	LOKOMOTIVE KOSICE 2 UNION TEPLICE 1
ITY	ASTON VILLA 75	LIVERPOOL 33	MACDONALD (ARSENAL) GRAY (ASTON VILLA)	25	MANCHESTER UNITED 2 LIVERPOOL 1
	BASTIA 82	ST. ETIENNE 36	BIANCHI (Reims)	28	ST. ETIENNE 2 REIMS 1
	DRESDEN 66	DYNAMO BERLIN DRESDEN 27	STREICH (Magdeburg)	17	DYNAMO DRESDEN 3 LOKOMOTIVE LEIPZIG 2
	EIN. FRANK. 86	BOR. MOEN 34	MULLER (Cologne)	34	COLOGNE 1 HERTHA BERLIN 0 (after 1-1 draw a.e.t.)
S A 3	PANATHINAIKOS OLYMPIAKOS 70	PANATHINAIKOS 20	INTZOGLOU (Ethnikos)	22	PANATHINAIKOS 2 PAOK SALONIKA 1
	VASAS 100	FERENCVAROS 42	VARADI (Vasas)	36	DIOSGYOR 1 VASAS 0
	TORINO 51	TORINO 14	GRAZIANI (Torino)	21	AC MILAN 2 INTER-MILAN 0
	PROGRES 50	JEUNESSE 21	MAY (Progres)	15	RED BOYS 4 PROGRES NIEDERCORN 4 (a.e.t.) Progres won replay 3-1
	AZ 67 75	AJAX 26	GEELS (Ajax)	34	TWENTE 3 PEC ZWOLLE 0 (a.e.t.)
	WIDZEW 46	SAG. SOSNOWIEC 28	MAZUR (Zag. Sosnowiec)	15	ZAGLEBIE SOSNOWIEC 1 POLONIA BYTOM 0
	PORTO 72	BENFICA 24	GOMES (Porto)	26	PORTO 1 BRAGA 0
	DYNAMO 84	CORVINUL 27	GEORGESCU (Dinamo)	47	UNI. CRAIOVA 2 STEAUA 1
	CELTIC 79	HIBERNIAN 35	PETTIGREW (Motherwell)	20	CELTIC 1 RANGERS 0
	BARCELONA 69	ATLETICO 33	MARANON (Espanol)	23	REAL BETIS 2 ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Betis won 11-9 on penalties)
	SERVETTE 84*	ZURICH 36*	CUCINOTTA (Zurich)	28	YOUNG BOYS 1 ST. GALLEN 0
	TRABZONSPOR 41	TRABZONSPOR 12	NEEMI (Trabzonspor)	17	TRABZONSPOR 1 BESIKTAS 0 (second leg 0-0)
	KIEV, ZENIT, KARPATY 22	TORPEDO 9	MARKIN (Zenit)	13	
	RED STAR 67	RIJEKA 29	FILIPOVIC (Red Star)	22	HAJDUK SPLIT 2 BUDUCNOST 0 (a.e.t.)

15 MATCHES EACH. SECOND CHAMPIONSHIP TAKEN

KEMPES RECALL BY ARGENTINA

THE MORE gloomy the fans in Argentina became over the recent series of prestige friendlies, the more optimistic has become Mario Kempes over his chances of returning home next summer to lead the World Cup bid.

A few months ago the chances of Kempes, who joined Valencia from Rosario Central a year ago, being drafted into Cesar Menotti's squad, looked minute.

In fact, in March when Kempes met Menotti while Argentina were playing in the Real Madrid 75th anniversary tournament, the Argentine coach never even bothered to raise the subject with the 22-year-old centre forward with legs like tree trunks.

Since then everything has changed Argentina flopped in Madrid, then suffered a chastening time in Buenos Aires against West Germany, England, Scotland and France. It became plain that the home-based players weren't up to the job. And Menotti, for the first time, let is be known that he is thinking of going back on his refusal to call up the emigrants.

First in line for the call-up is Kempes, top scorer in the Spanish league in his first season — hitting two in the last game, away to champions Atletico Madrid, to total 24 and pip Espanol Barcelona's Rafael Maranon by one goal.

A glorious climax to the season for a man who started it badly. Kempes, who had cost an Argentine record £340,000, was a big disappointment when he made his first appearances for Valencia in the summer tournaments.

Kempes admitted it: "I was playing badly, I missed several chances, even a penalty. After only a few games people at the club must have been thinking they'd made a big mistake.

"But you must remember these were my first games. I wasn't match fit. And I barely knew my new team-mates. There was no understanding between us. I was affected as well by the weather. I left Argentina in winter, and arrived here in the full heat of the summer.

"Anyway, there's not the same urgency or purpose about summer tournament games."

But unimpressive as he was in the pre season, it took Kempes just three matches to hit the goal standard in the league then, with two in a 4-1 win over Espanol Barcelona. He was off.

With his parents and 17-year-old younger brother Hugo Sergio coming over to Spain to look after him, Kempes was quick now to settle into the style of the team and, particularly, with fellow strikers Johnny Rep from Holland and the costly Paraguayan, Carlos Diarte.

At first Diarte was the favourite of the fans. He had just cost £400,000 from Zaragoza and was as controversial a character off the field as he was unpredictable on it. The season didn't go well for Valencia. Despite a flying start they finished seventh, and coach Heriberto Herrera was sacked along the way.

by Keir Radnedge

As the season went on, Diarte's star waned — and at the end of the 34 games it was clear who the real star is: Kempes, who cost £60,000 less than Diarte but scored eight goals more — and Diarte converted five penalties.

A great start for the boy from Bell Ville, a small town equidistant from Buenos Aires and Cordoba, and who learned his football — like Alfredo di Stefano and Enrico Sivori before him — kicking a can through the streets and over the waste ground.

Always he wanted to be a centre forward, right back to the days when, at 10, he enrolled in his first team — Talleres of Bell Ville — and played in the local youth league's fourth division.

"Everyone thinks it's the glamour position to play," says Kempes. "It is, up to a point . . . but if you miss a couple then everyone's on your back."

Inside the provincial leagues Kempes graduated quickly until, in 1973, he joined Instituto Cordoba. He played only 15 games, scoring 11 goals, and almost at once his career had taken off.

Hat-trick

Kempes, born on July 15, 1954, moved at 19 to first division Rosario Central. He announced his arrival by smashing a hat-trick past former South American champions Estudiantes de la Plata, and within a matter of weeks was thrown into Argentina's World Cup squad preparing for the qualifying tie in the high-altitude Bolivian capital of La Paz.

Argentina won 1-0, but Kempes didn't see the game through. At 19 he didn't have the stamina, and made way halfway through the game for Ricardo Bochini. That was to prove the first of 23 internationals which would bring 14 goals to add to the sackful he was scoring in the league.

In 1974 he scored 29 goals for Rosario in 34 games, and the next year 35 in 50. In 1976 he grabbed 21 goals in 22 games before his transfer to Valencia — a deal put through amid ridiculous secrecy.

Valencia had just been let down over the signing of West Germany's Rainer Bonhof. They had hoped to carry the deal through before anyone could object, but news leaked out and in the end Bonhof's club, Borussia Moenchengladbach, persuaded Bonhof to agree not to leave until after the 1978 World Cup.

Very disappointed, Valencia decided to go for Kempes — and make sure that this time there were no leaks. At the end of July Rosario Central issued a statement saying that Valencia's offer had been turned down. Four days later talks started in earnest, and on August 7 the deal was confirmed.

Still Valencia were on their guard. They brought decoys off the plane bringing him into Spain, and tried to smuggle him through a side door of the airport to avoid the Press.

And thus, once signed, began the chain of events which bring Kempes back to the verge of Argentina's World Cup team — the team he thought he had left for good when, after his move to Spain, the AFA decided to ban transfers abroad, and Menotti vowed he would stick to home-based men.

Kempes says: "I'm hopeful, but not over-optimistic," of a recall for next year. But there is no doubt that he has learned a lot in Spain — not just about technique either.

Kempes again: "I've found that if you hold the ball too long in Spain, the defenders will let you know all about it — on the backs of your ankles. But while I've been here I have lost some weight, and that's helped me immensely."

Back in 1974 — Kempes's first World Cup Finals — he looked cumbersome at times. Not that he didn't make a good enough impression. Before the Finals he led Argentina's attack at Wembley and scored the two goals which brought them back from 2-0 down after 53 minutes to a draw.

Kempes, only playing because Golden Boot winner Hector Yazalde was suffering a calf muscle strain, took advantage of a mix-up between Emlyn Hughes and Peter Shilton to score his first easily after 58 minutes. Then, with two minutes remaining, he was fouled by Hughes for the penalty which he converted to pull Argentina level.

He scored against Rumania in a warm-up game too on the way to West Germany. But here it wasn't so easy. He played in all Argentina's six games, starting the match in the 3-2 defeat by Poland, the 1-1 draw with Italy and the 4-1 win against Haiti, but then coming on as substitute for Rene Houseman in the 4-0 defeat by Holland in the second round.

Kempes played for an hour in the 2-1 defeat by Brazil, and right through in the 1-1 draw with East Germany. But he'd done enough to confirm himself as a likely pillar of Argentina for years to come . . . if he stayed.

As it is, he hasn't. And so determined was he in the end to leave Rosario Central that he said, after moving to Spain: "I'd have retired if they hadn't let me go."

Kempes's determination was not so much based on the short-term financial rewards but on what such a move could mean to his career.

As he said, when asked about how much the transfer meant in cash terms: "The basic rates for top players are about the same here in Spain as in Argentina. But here the bonuses are much higher. But, you know, I didn't come to Spain to make money, but to make my name as a footballer."

It looks as if Mario Kempes will be given the chance to make that name even more famous next summer before his own fellow countrymen . . .

NEWS FROM FRANCE
by Andre Duclos

Saint Etienne face United

SAINT ETIENNE drawn against Manchester United in the Cup Winners' Cup. Two splendid draws by the French national team in South America. These are indeed rousing times in French football and with all deference to Eire, our qualification for Buenos Aires looks very likely now. The Irish, like ourselves, suffered from mysteriously bad, apparently biased, refereeing against Bulgaria in Sofia, but whereas France did manage to hang on there for a 2-2 draw and a point, Eire went down; and probably out.

Anything like the form shown by France on the South American tour, when Argentina were held 0-0 in Buenos Aires and, just as some people were saying the French attack lacked penentration, lacked a genuine centre-forward with the build and power to round things off, had the temerity to score two goals against Brazil at the Maracana in Rio; something which no other European team including West Germany, managed to do in the recent summer flurry of activity.

Can Saint Etienne put out Manchester United? A difficult question to answer. You might almost put a supplementary question: which Saint Etienne? The one which crashed 3-0 at Nantes in the first leg of the recent semi-final of the French Cup, or the one which triumphantly turned the tables by winning the return by a 5-1 margin at home?

Saint Etienne then went on to win the Final too, beating Reims 2-1, though it is intriguing to speculate just what would have happened had Reims been able to call upon Carlos Bianchi, the Argentinian who has been so prolific for them over recent seasons, and is now due to go. In the circumstances I think you will agree that they did wonderfully well to beat Nice in the semi-finals and then push Saint Etienne so hard.

Final whistle

By the way, between the two exciting Saint Etienne v Nantes semi-finals came a play off for the Third Division Championships between the two clubs' reserve sides and guess who was playing for Nantes. None other than Robert Gadocha, the famous Polish left winger, hero of the 1974 World Cup, to whose signature Nantes beat none other than Bayern Munich. Strange game, this football.

But to return to Saint Etienne, note please that the elegant international full-back Janvion played in midfield in both matches, and that the veteran Hervé Revelli came back to play in the front line. No wonder his younger brother Patrick said triumphantly after the victory in the Cup. "Saint Etienne are never beaten until the final whistle."

Note too that the phenomenal Dominique Rocheteau, who's missed the first semi-final at Nantes and whom no one expected to be fit to play till next season, shook off his troubles and boldly took part in the return semi-final and the Final, even though alas he did not participate in the South American tour. Poor Rocheteau does seem to be accident prone. Last year of course he could play for only eight gilded minutes in the Final of the European Cup, when he made the Bayern defence see all the colours of the rainbow, while before that he had a long spell out of football with injury.

Restrictive

If you also take into account the fact that the French team which played in South America did not have its star of stars, Michel Platini, fully fit, so that he was obliged to play a restrictive, containing game in midfield rather than express his full, great talents, you will realise that we have a good deal still in reserve.

It seems a little unlikely that Bulgaria, when they come to Paris next season without an intimidated or conditioned referee and without home advantage, will be able to hold France again; though, of course, it is foolish to talk of certainties in our game.

In the "absence" of the real Platini, Henri Michel was able to play just the creative, adventurous game on the right of midfield that he has been playing all season for Nantes: skipper of a fine side of youngsters. This tour was something of a jubilee for Nantes, so many of their players were picked for the team. One who "came good" was another midfielder in Omar Sahnoun, a gifted and exciting footballer indeed.

He was only sixteen when he first drew national attention with a dazzling performance in a curtain raiser to the 1972 Cup Final at the Parc des Princes. He was playing for Pliardie in the junior cup final; and the major professional clubs scrambled for his services.

It was Nantes who beat them all to sign Sahnoun, who came to them from Beauvais and has maintained his promise. In Buenos Aires he had a splendid match though, like Platini, he played a somewhat restricted, defensive game; which is not the one he likes best. He said he felt thoroughly at ease, not merely because there were five Nantes players on the field but because he always likes to have Henri Michel beside him.

In the European Cup, Nantes are drawn against Dukla Prague. Some years ago this probably would have been the end for them, but Dukla as we know are not the team they were, so that in effect it will be a case of two clubs somewhat inexperienced in European competition, though both have like Huckleberry Finn been there before. I think Nantes, with Amisse, Pécout and company to score the goals, should get through, and should then grow from round to round.

There were those who thought Eric Pécout should have been picked for the South American tour; the more so as Lacombe was the only "real" centre-forward on the trip, and the Nantes block so obviously missed the powerful presence of Pécout in the Buenos Aires game. His time will come: soon.

Action from the French Cup Final.

International Microscope

Austria have fine history

by ERIC BATTY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Belgium	9	9	0	0	36	10
Brazil	6	0	3	3	4	9
Bulgaria	4	3	1	0	15	2
Cyprus	2	2	0	0	9	2
Czechoslovakia	31	7	10	14	46	59
Denmark	2	1	1	0	8	4
Egypt (U.A.R.)	9	4	1	4	10	11
Eire	10	6	2	2	27	13
England	14	3	3	8	21	51
Finland	6	5	1	0	13	8
France	15	8	1	6	34	27
Germany, East	2	0	1	1	1	2
Germany, West	21	6	4	11	39	40
Greece	4	3	1	0	9	2
Holland	8	3	3	2	10	10
Hungary	121	34	26	61	226	276
Israel	2	1	1	0	4	2
Italy	30	13	6	11	53	38
Latvia	1	1	0	0	2	1
Luxembourg	4	4	0	0	18	3
Malta	6	6	0	0	22	3
Norway	5	5	0	0	14	3
Poland	2	1	0	1	5	3
Portugal	4	2	2	0	13	4
Rumania	3	1	2	0	6	2
Scotland	12	6	3	3	24	15
Spain	5	2	0	3	12	13
Sweden	22	11	2	9	41	39
Switzerland	28	20	3	5	85	38
Turkey	4	4	0	0	4	0
Uruguay	2	1	0	1	3	3
U.S.S.R.	3	1	0	2	3	4
Wales	4	3	0	1	6	3
Yugoslavia	13	5	4	4	34	26
Totals	414	181	81	152	857	726

I OWE a great deal to the Austrians personally and my memories of them go back over more than 25 years. It was in May 1951 that they set me off on a course I am still pursuing, understanding the secrets of 'madame football' and looking at the game as a world affair rather than simply within my own immediate sphere.

At the time stated I was losing interest in football, still playing and loving every minute, but becoming disenchanted with the quality of the football I was being offered by the top clubs in England. There were exceptions to this general statement, for this was the time of Arthur Rowe's Tottenham team that came up from Division II and won the championship first time out, known then as the push-and-run side.

But as more and more of the pre-war players retired, the English club game was clearly dying. The young apprentices that were filling half the positions in most teams simply didn't known how to play. Some of the youngsters had pace; more had pure skill, but lacking coaches to lead the way, neither category of player knew how to use their attributes, and never looked like learning.

It was against this background that I went to see FK Austria at White Hart Lane on the first evening of the FA's contribution to the first post war British Industrial Exhibitions . . . the Festival of Britain.

In the fortnight that followed I saw a real festival, but I have to record that it was the visiting teams that made it an event.

At Tottenham, Ernst Ocwirk, the FK Austria captain handed Ronnie Burgess, left half and captain of Wales a huge bunch of flowers beofre the pre-match toss up. This was the first time I had seen it done and it drew cries of amazement as well as laughter from the crowd.

However, after Ocwirk gave Burgess the flowers, the Austrians then proceeded to give a superb exhibition of skills and combined play. It was based on Ocwirk who played the attacking centre half game, being involved in everything. A big man physically, he was very gentle. He caressed the ball and passed it, usually short, then strolled into space to get it back.

Inside left Ernst Stojaspal, the Melchior brothers and Gerhardt were also among the visiting team, all illustrious names in Austrian football, but it was Ocwirk who dominated and fittingly he scored the only goal of the game. Typically, that goal came after about 42 consecutive short Austrian passes was tapped in from about a yard and a half out and took something like three minutes to create.

That may seem like an exaggeration, but it isn't. That was exactly how the FK played. Each man was an artist in his own right and though they had a glaring weakness in that not one player could shoot (or perhaps they didn't want to), the game was played so slowly that Spurs men had time to get tight and challenge each man as he got the ball long before he passed. Pop-pop-pop-pop went the short passes with Spurs playings sweating their hearts out trying to get in a tackle. Every now and again an Austrian would keep the ball, sell a dummy and then perhaps beat a man as well . . . before making the inevitable short pass.

What made this game all the more memorable was that I went to the Lane as a near convert to the Spurs-type football. They had just won the championship with a team that included outstanding players like Burgess, Alf Ramsey, Eddie Bailey, and just a few weeks earlier I had seen them give a 7-0 tanking to Newcastle United . . . a 'Newcastle' side that included Jackie Milburn and one of my all-time favourites Ernie Taylor.

Everything that Spurs touched at that period seemed to be transformed immediately into gold . . . but then, against FK Austria, Burgess got his flowers and Spurs got very little else on the night. All they could do was chase the ball but they got precious few chances to show what they themselves were capable of, since Ocwirk and his friends wouldn't let them get the ball!

A few days later I saw the legendary Willi Hahnemann, a truly great inside left who played for Germany as well as Austria. Then of course Austria's full national team soon followed and drew 2-2 against England at Wembley.

Yet another Austrian one shouldn't forget was Gerhard Hanappi whom I saw play right back, right half and inside right, though he was really a right half of true greatness. To further prove his versatility I also saw Hanappi play left back for FIFA v England at Wembley in the autumn of 1953 and do as good a job as any at locking up 'the master . . . Stanley Matthews.

Unhappily, such glorious days are long since past. More to the point was England's 7-0 tanking of the Austrians when they last appeared at Wembley nearly four years ago.

The years have taken their toll. No longer do the Austrians have *wunder-spieler* nor thousands of youngsters juggling with the ball all day in the Winerwald. Now, if Austria produces even a useful player like Hans Krankl, foreign clubs are getting their bids in long before the age at which the OFB will let him go.

Like Uruguay, another all-time great, the Austrians have fallen on hard times and the way back will be neither quick nor easy. Poor players have meant bad football and terrible gates which means that even the financial incentive for kids to work hard is not there, even if they have the coaches.

Though England have fallen probably as far as the Austrians, they at least have hard working players that provide the combative football that creates excitement that keeps the crowds (and money) coming. England could, with the right ideas, be back in the big box quite quickly . . . but Austria has none of these assets and would seem to be locked in the little box with other minnows.

But how I would love to see some of their battles with the Czechs and Hungarians in the late twenties and the thirties.

World Cup doubts

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

NOBODY but the Argentinians can much be looking forward to the 1978 World Cup. Daniel Bertoni's brutal and unmotivated assault on Trevor Cherry was bad enough, not only in itself but in its aftermath, the misguided and demoralised Barreta sending off victim as well as assailant, but much worse was to follow six days later in the Scotland game.

Then, as we know all too well, the Argentinians, doubtless frustrated by a string of poor results, defeat by West Germany, a draw with England, much trouble against Scotland, began, in the vernacular, to put it about. Their violence culminated with Pernia, having been run ragged by clever Willie Johnston, cruelly punching him in the kidneys. Again, this time with a Brazilian referee, both players were sent off.

Again, that was bad enough, but much worse, in its implications, was to follow. At the subsequent Press Conference, Luis Cesar Menotti, the Argentinian manager, who from the first days of his reign had deplored violent, physical play, accused the Scots of lying down and feigning injury and, far from taking any kind of responsibility for his players' rough behaviour, cheaply and gratuitously tried to turn the trick by evoking the behaviour of the Scots supporters at Wembley.

That behaviour was repughant but, like the flowers that bloom in the Spring tra-la, it had nothing to do with the case. Had Menotti possessed the courage of his convictions, he would publicly have reprimanded his team for their misdemeanours. That he did not do so suggested a crisis of morale, a wilting under the fire of criticism which has attended his regime.

These critics have castigated the kind of football Menotti has his much depleted Argentinian team playing, and have called for the return of Juan Carlos Lorenzo, notoriously the manager of the Argentinian World Cup teams in 1962 and 1966, not to mention the Lazio team which brawled with Arsenal in Rome in 1970 and the Atletico Madrid team which kicked chunks out of Celtic in Glasgow in a European Cup semi-final of 1974.

Consciously or otherwise, it appears that Menotti has tried to introject, as the Freudians say, some of Lorenzo's aggressive managerial qualities. How else can one explain such a volte face, from a man who publicly stated that he believed violence and physical football could not hope to overcome the "total" game of the Europeans?

THE evening after the Argentina-England game, Juan Carlos Lorenzo and Menotti were brought together for a dialogue by that excellent sports weekly, EL GRAFICO. Perhaps inevitably, little of any consequence was said, least of all in terms of differentiating between their philosophies of football unless, of course, the gap had already narrowed very greatly by then. "First of all," Lorenzo tactfully began, "I want to make it clear that I have absolutely nothing against Menotti."

He did not, he insisted, even want to be the team manager of Argentina. Menotti, meeting tact with tact, said he felt it absolutely fair that he should want to manage the international team: "Every manager has the right to aspire to more."

Lorenzo, still very polite, said he thought that the international team had been nervous against England, that it missed Houseman, that it was harder to play at home, in front of such a demanding crowd, than away, that in Argentina directors created more problems than they solved.

Menotti said that in the Argentinian Championship, players were given much more time on the ball than when they played against European teams. Lorenzo harked back to Rancagua and the 1962 World Cup when, Argentina having beaten Bulgaria 1-0 in a game I remember as being greatly tedious, the players next day watched openmouthed as England and Hungary served up a display of football which left them toiling in the rear. (To be frank, I saw that game too, and did not find it in any way outstanding, though Heaven knows it was better than Argentina-Bulgaria; or a worse game still on the same ground, England against Bulgaria; a horror).

Lorenzo said that the Argentinian mentality, the Argentinian style, were still out of date. Menotti lamented that as soon as an Argentinian player really got good, he was whisked away abroad, so it just wasn't possible for Argentina to have a player with over 100 caps, such as Brazil's Rivelino. So it went off, with the central issues being carefully avoided. But they were plain enough less than a week later in the deplorable Scottish game.

Violent tactics evident

WHAT, you may ask, is going to be done? So far as England is concerned, under Revie's demoralised regime, the answer may in any case be academic, Italy against Finland were, I understand, no great shakes, even though they won, but the hurdle seems impossibly high; the more so when Revie has Keegan playing, as Menotti remarked to me with scornful amazement, as a virtual half-back.

So far as Johan Cruyff is concerned, I imagine it will mean he is more determined than ever not to go to Argentina. You may remember that he has been kicked comprehensively in Buenos Aires before when Ajax, in 1972, foolishly changed their minds about playing in the world club championship (sic) money prevailing over considerations of life and limb.

"Can you imagine FIFA doing anything about it with Havelange in charge?" an Italian journalist asked me hopelessly, at Wimbledon, when I suggested that UEFA must bring pressure.

Violent

Nothing in Havelange's pro-South American record, alas, suggests that he is wrong, but the potential combination of violent tactics by the home team, an intimidatory crowd and intimidated referees could make this the nastiest World Cup since 1934, when Fascist Italy made it a little too clear — in the words of the Belgian referee John Langenus — that winning was all that mattered.

I have suggested that — and I know the remedy is desperate — Argentina's Association should be told that in the event of such incidents as were contained in the English and Scottish games, the home country's matches should be moved across the River Plate to Montevideo. After all, what is the use of telling referees to be brave, strong and decisive when you cannot guarantee their physical safety?

It must be said that the Argentinian F.A. have so far played well, suspending Bertoni instantly, without waiting for a FIFA decision, deploring the behavour of the team against Scotland. But Menotti, in the words of W. C. Fields, appears at the moment to be the Ethiopian in the fuel supply. Just as we were praising him, too, as a knight in shining armour.

So terrorism off the field in 1978 seems, for the moment at least, to be secondary to a form of terrorism on and around it.

ATHLETIC BILBAO struck a resounding blow last season for self-reliant clubs by reaching the UEFA Cup and Spanish Cup Finals with a team made up entirely of local-raised players. Now KEIR RADNEDGE traces the history of the oldest Spanish club. This month Part One: 1898-1936.

BASQUE SPIRIT IS SO VITAL

BILBAO can be a forbidding place to reach — at least by air. You fly in through a narrow valley and, to land, your aircraft has to turn 180 degrees tight and descend to a small airport over a harrowingly lengthy graveyard. My last visit coincided with the domestic unrest in the Vizcaya province, which was a prelude to the Spanish elections. Two days before, a couple of policemen had been killed in neighbouring San Sebastian.

Basque nationalist flags bearing the Vizcaya emblem, the Ikurrina, flew from many windows and a colleague told me cynically: "We used to have just football. Now there is a new game. It's called democracy, and some people think the rules include throwing stones at policemen."

I mention the political situation because it is twice relevant to the place of Athletic Club de Bilbao in Spanish football.

First, because it's necessary to understand the Basque spirit of independance to understand the club and its rigid reliance on local players only. Secondly, it was in the time of unrest that the significance of what the club means to the populace comes shining through.

More than that, in other parts of Spain, Bilbao are many people's "second favourite" club and for big matches fans come up from Madrid, Barcelona, even Valencia.

I had gone to Bilbao for the second leg of the UEFA Cup Final against Juventus. And, as one of the directors told me: "We have had a lot of political trouble this past weekend. Maybe it could affect whether the match goes ahead. But I don't think so. Everyone will call a truce so Bilbao can win the UEFA Cup. Then, afterwards, the trouble will start up again."

In effect he was saying that love and respect for Athletic Bilbao transcends mere day-to-day problems such as politics.

For an Englishman, Bilbao is a paradox. It is in Spain, yet the people are determinedly Basque, not Spanish, and then again, some corners of Bilbao are more English than England! Jose Antonio Eguidazu, who retired from the presidency a few weeks back after a tiring but successful four years, is proud to count among his forebears one Manuel Smith.

For, through the Smiths, Eguidazu is thus linked to the family who helped set up the club and forge the first and continuing industrial and cultural links with Britain.

It depends on which part of Spain you live in, on where you think football first began there. There are strong reasons for believing the first organised club was the Sociedad de Foot-ball Sky, in Madrid. But without any doubt, Bilbao are the oldest club now.

And still going strong — having won the league six times, the Cup on a record 22 occasions and never having been relegated since the first division's inception in 1928.

As we have seen, it was from Britain that the impulsion came, partly from the famous Mr Smith, who worked for a telegraph company in Bilbao, partly from Spanish students who went to Britain to learn and came back having also taken in the rules and laws of association football.

The first record of a match in Bilbao dates back to May 3, 1894. A team of British residents and students beat the side of young Basques 5-0. But it wasn't until 1898 that the Athletic Club — it still proudly bears the English name — was formed.

There was no such thing as a committee, or offices, or minutes for meetings. All that had to wait until September 5, 1901, when, in a room above the Cafe Donostiarra the 33 members decided to make it official and register as a sports organisation with the local council.

They weren't the first. The previous year had seen the registration of the Bilbao Football Club, and they didn't fancy any serious rivals. Accordingly, a grand challenge match was arranged. It finished all-square. So did the second. Finally, third time lucky, Athletic won 3-2. It was the first in a long series of triumphs.

The second came in the summer after the foundation official — in 1902. The two rivals joined forces to take part in Madrid, along with three other clubs (Barcelona, Espanol and Madrid FC) in a mini tournament in honour of the coronation of King Alfonso XIII.

The Basques, under the name of Bizcaya (with a B), played and won three games on consecutive days and with them the trophy presented by the mayor of Madrid. Bilbao still have that trophy in their trophy room in the new office suite in one corner of the San Mames stadium.

That initial success was nearly the last. The heat of the summer melted away the interest in soccer and in mid-autumn it seemed both Athletic and Bilbao FC might have to pack up. There was only one solution — join forces, permanently. Athletic were marginally the bigger club still, so Bilbao FC was dissolved and their remaining members swallowed up by the rival.

The arrangement was completed in time for the first official national championship, organised as a knock-out tournament by representatives of clubs from Bilbao, Madrid and Barcelona.

Bilbao played just twice — beating Espanol in the semi-final then going to Madrid to defeat Madrid FC 3-2 in the final to win the Copa del Rey (King's Cup).

Just as now, so it was then. Everyone wants to know a winner. In Madrid, Bilbao made such an impression that a disaffected group of Madrid FC members asked Athletic for permission to set up an affiliated Bilbao club in the capital. Thus began the history of Athletic — now Atletico — Madrid.

Even today they wear virtually the same colours — red and white striped shirts, though Bilbao's shorts are black. Atletico Madrid's blue. It would not be long, however, before the junior club broke away.

These were truly amateur days, of course, and a number of Bilbao's players didn't take kindly to a suggestion that they ought to introduce regular get-togethers during the week for something the English called "training". After all, they hardly needed it. In 1904 Bilbao retained the Cup without playing a game!

Having been seeded to the challenge final, arguments among their challengers meant that first one club then another dropped out. In the end it was left between Madrid FC and Espanol to meet to decide who should play Bilbao. There was an almighty and hilarious tangle over dates, Madrid withdrew in a huff, and Espanol refused to turn up.

Bilbao again — by a walkover.

That couldn't last, of course. In 1905 came a warning of the wind of change. A team from San Sebastian came along the coast and gave the champions a scare then, in the Cup both this year and the next they went down in the final to Madrid.

Former Bilbao player Uriarte

Former Bilbao player Echeberria

Former Bilbao player Ortoundo

The Basque grip had been broken.

In an attempt to regain their stranglehold, Athletic resurrected the Bizcaya name for the 1907 title bid, but, despite a brief merger with Union Vizcaino, they went down to Vigo in the semi-finals. Salamanca, Madrid and Huelva had been beaten on the way in an ever-growing competition, but Vigo were too strong. So were their fans.

Bilbao were losing 1-0 in Vigo, amid a most threatening atmosphere from the home crowd. The situation was so ugly, in fact, that when Bilbao were awarded a penalty late in the game Arzuaga deliberately shot wide — an original and practical variation on the theme of safety-first.

Already moves towards the club as we know it today were under way. The first step forward was in 1910 when Athletic, on their way to regaining the Cup with a 1-0 win over Basconia, first took up the red-and-white colours. Up until then they had copied Blackburn Rovers' blue and white halves.

And then they hired their first manager — a man named Shepherd. He lasted only six weeks, but his stewardship was enough to establish the tradition that Bilbao always look to Britain when they're thinking of finding a new man. So far they've had seven English managers, the last being Ronnie Allen.

Moved

In search of a new home Bilbao moved from the little scruffy Lamiaco pitch, to the Neguri Jolaseta, some way out of town, and just in time to organise the 1911 championship. But it came at a difficult time — for the Spanish clubs were in the middle of a three-year fight for power.

Several objected to competing in the same tournament as Bilbao because — so ironic as it seems now — they disliked Bilbao including so many foreigners! Under pressure, Athletic's committee agreed to do without their star player, White, for the early games of the championship.

In the final they beat Espanol Barcelona 3-1, but the trouble was only just beginning. Earlier the Federacion de Clubs had declared a match between Barcelona and Gimnastica of Madrid null and void because the Catalans fielded four foreigners. Now Bilbao had recalled White for the final, and the Federacion later told Bilbao that, because of this, the title would be stripped from them.

Bilbao protested, the federation relented, let them keep the title, but refused to let Bilbao take up their right as champions to organise the Cup Finals the following season. Bilbao protested . . . and were kicked out. Not, of course, for long. They already had too much tradition, too much power, too much of a reputation and in 1913 not only were they back, but reaching the final, where they lost 1-0 in a replay to Racing Club de Irun.

Already the hunt was on for a new home. The members wanted somewhere more central and, on January 20, 1913, president Alejandro de la Sota laid the foundation of what is now the 41,000-all-seater Estadio San Mames, aptly named 'La Catedral' because of the steel bow flying across the roof of the main stand.

In 1913 the first visitors from abroad made their appearance at San Mames. Bienne came from Switzerland, drawing 2-2 and winning 4-2 in a snowstorm. Then came Ferencvaros, winning 5-2. A second game had to be abandoned when the crowd, upset by the rough play of the Hungarians, swarmed over the pitch in protest.

That's one problem which has stayed with Spanish football!

Now into the championship. Bilbao won the extended regional qualifier, and were honoured with a Mr Rowland, an English referee, for their semi-final. Into the final, in Irun, against Espana of Barcelona and a 2-1 win was quite good enough to provide Bilbao with their sixth success.

It was to prove the first leg of a hat-trick. Bilbao took the Cup again in 1915 and 1916 under a new Englishman named Barnes. In 1915 they beat Espanol 5-0, but the third leg was not so easily achieved — rather bacause of political problems than football ones. Bilbao and San Sebastian needed a play-off to decide who went through from the regional rounds, and couldn't agree on a venue. Eventually, after the various local federations had tried to sort out the wrangle and decided on somewhere in Vizcaya, San Sebastian refused to turn up . . .

Bilbao went on to beat Madrid FC 4-0 in the final in Barcelona. And you'll notice in the Madrid line-up the name of the centre forward — the same Santiago Bernabeu who is today their president. The referee was Paco Bru, a former Barcelona goalkeeper who later coached Real Madrid and the Spanish national team.

Bilbao: Ibarreche; Solaun, Hurtado; Egula, J. M. Belauste, Cabieces; German, Pichichi, Zubizarreta, Iceta, Acedo.

Madrid FC: Teus; Erice, Gomes de la Serna; E. Aranguren, R. Pelit, Castell, Casanova, Belaunde, Bernabeu, J. Pelit, S. Aranguren.

It was so easy for Bilbao. Acedo and Zubizarreta scored twice early in the first half, and Zubizarreta, a blond giant of a centre forward, completed a hat-trick in the second. Madrid let frustration creep into their play, and their 'reward' at the end was a hail of missiles from the antagonistic Catalan fans.

Barnes now left Bilbao to return home to England, an England in the midst of a war, but football continued in Spain, with Benfica, then Etoile de Chaux de Fonds paying touring visits. Bilbao needed these friendly matches to fill in their programme — particularly after being knocked out early in the qualifiers for the Cup in 1917. To make amends officials arranged a big match for Christmas Day, Bilbao against the offshoot, Athletic Madrid.

It was billed as a friendly. In fact it was nothing of the sort. The game ended 20 minutes early in a riot.

In 1920 Bilbao were beating Barcelona 2-0 to regain the Cup, but everything else in Spanish football that year was overshadowed by the first outings of a national team, in the Olympic tournament in Antwerp. The Spanish effort gave rise to the legend of the *Furia Espanola* – a spirit which has sadly been lacking in most selections ever since. Bilbao were represented by centre half Jose Maria Belauste, now 31, wing half Sabino Bilbao Libano, winger Domingo Acedo Villanueva, a 22-year-old who would win 11 caps, and — most famous of all — Rafael Moreno Aranzadi, better known as Pichichi.

His name lives on today in the award to the first division's top scorer — the Trofeo Pichichi. He was the first really big star of Spanish soccer, a goal-scoring inside forward who joined Bilbao from a school team, and whose prospects seemed limitless — even in those amateur days. Sadly he would die young, in 1922. His last major triumph was the 4-1 Cup Final win the year before, against Athletic Madrid.

More prestige friendlies were arranged — against Sparta Prague, West Ham (who won all four), Birmingham, Nürnberg, Argentina's Boca Juniors. It was all in aid of the great celebration — Bilbao's Jubilee, the 25th anniversary. But what better way to celebrate than by landing the title which really matters?

● *continued overleaf*

The history of Athletico Bilbao-PART ONE

continued from previous page

Partly to blame, following on the death of Pichichi, was the street accident which robbed them of a fine new Spanish international centre half, Jesus Larraza. And in desperation Bilbao went through several more managers. An Englishman, Kirby, was followed by the famous Hungarian, Lippo Hertza. He took Bilbao on a central European tour, but defeats in Vienna, Bucharest and Zurich were not balanced by victory in Budapest and a draw (3-3) against Grasshoppers in Switzerland.

Yet times were changing. Barcelona were shortly to become the first club to introduce professionalism and, in 1928-29, the first Campeonato Nacional de Liga was launched.

Ten clubs met, home and away, and Bilbao finished third. They, along with Real Madrid and Barcelona, remain to this day the only clubs never relegated. Yet Bilbao's league title record is not that impressive. In nearly 50 years they have hit the jackpot only six times.

Their fame — and their nickname of the Lions — rests on their Cup-fighting qualities. — another inherent English soccer quality maintained in a club which had now decided formally to stick to local players and recall Pentland as manager.

His first season back was a major triumph. Bilbao ran away with the league and cup double. In the league they finished with 30 points, seven clear of Barcelona, were never defeated, and in the cup knocked out Santander, Real Sociedad, Irun and Barcelona, going through to face Madrid in the final in the Barcelona stadium of Montjuich.

Bilbao: Blasco; Careaga, Castellanos; Garizurieta, Muguerza, Chirri II; Lafuente, Iraragorri, Unamuno, Sauto, Gorostiza.

Madrid: Vidal; Quesada, Torregrosa; Lope Pena, Esparza, J. M. Pena; Lazcano, Triana, Rubio, Cosme, Olasso.

Bilbao's newest star was wing half or inside forward Chirri II (real name Ignacio Aguirrezabala Ibarbia). But there were also centre half Jose Muguerza and outside left Guillermo Gorostiza. Gorostiza, born locally on February 15, 1909, came to Bilbao from Ferrol and later went to Valencia, before retiring in 1951, at 42!

Concussion

He was the Spanish Stanley Matthews, winning the league with Bilbao in 1930, 1931, 1934 and 1936, and then with Valencia after the Spanish civil war in 1942 and 1944.

He played 19 times for Spain between 1930 and 1941 when, stupidly, having experimented with him at left back (!), Bilbao gave him away.

Yet despite these new stars it was one of the older ones, Ramon de Lafuante, who won the 1930 Cup Final, against Madrid. Lafuente had been passenger for most of the second half and extra time after a collision in which he suffered concussion. The score was 2-2 late in extra time with neither side looking like a goal, when, with minutes remaining, Chirri pushed the ball back out of the penalty area and shouted to Lafuente: "Hit it." He did. Bilbao had won the Cup.

This was a golden age. In 1931 they retained both titles, though they only took the league on goal average, since Santander and Real Sociedad also finished on 22 points. Their record included a 6-0 away win over Real Madrid and a 12-1 home thrashing of Barcelona. And in the Cup Final they beat Betis of Sevilla 3-1, with goals from Chirri, Roberto Echevarria, and Bata. This was Betis's first final; a few weeks ago, Betis and Bilbao met again in the final. This time Betis won on penalties after extra time.

Such was Bilbao's dominance in the early 1930s that for the 0-0 draw between Spain and Italy in San Mames, Spain included seven Bilbao men: Blasco, Echevarria, Lafuente, Iraragorri, Bata, Chirri II and Gorostiza.

With this nucleus they came so close, too, to retaining both titles for a third year. But, having beaten Barcelona 1-0 in the Cup Final, they saw Madrid edge three points clear at the top of the table.

The next season, 1932-33, was a repeat. They finished two points adrift of Madrid in the league, but again won the Cup — the last triumph for Pentland, who was leaving again — this time for good.

Again the final was in Montjuich. Again Madrid were the rivals — this time reinforced by Spain's greatest goalkeeper, Ricardo Zamora.

Bilbao: Blasco; Castellanos, Urquizu; Uribe, Muguerza, Echevarria; Lafuente, Iraragorri, Bata, Unamuno, Gorostiza.

Madrid: Zamora; Cirasto, Quincoces; P. Regueiro, Valle, Bonet; Eugenio, L. Regueiro, Olivares, Hilario, Lazcano.

Madrid went in at half-time 1-0 up, but injuries to Valle and Hilario were too much of a handicap in the second half. Goals from Lafuente and Gorostiza brought Bilbao the cup and launched them into a 1933-34 season in which, under a Basque coach for the first time — Luis Caicedo — they regained their place at the top of the league — two points clear of Madrid.

There was one more triumph to come — the league again 1936 under Jose Maria Olavarria — before the Spanish civil war closed everything down . . .

Afterwards, there was a need for a lot of reorganisation. Already Bilbao had hesitantly ordered a local youth tournament in the hope of laying foundations for the future and, when organised soccer, began again in 1939-40, had already found two players with whom the club would become synonymous.

One was named Telmo Zarraonandia Montoya. He was a centre forward, born on January 30, 1921, in Asua, near Bilbao. All his top class soccer was played with the Lions and he would be chosen for 20 internationals — including the World Cup tie in Rio against Ejgland, which he would win with a header.

Far, far better known as plain Zarra, his skill in the air was such that they called him "the best head in Europe after Churchill." And over so many years he was to be spirited towards so many goals by a man just one year younger.

Agustin 'Piru' Gainza, was born in Basauri (Vizcaya) on May 28, 1922. Bilbao would be his only professional club until his retirement in 1958 and beyond. His career lasted longer than Zarra's, which explains his 33 international caps, and he is still there today.

He's had a couple of spells as first team coach, but I met him again this spring at Bilbao's country training centre of Lezama, where he is senior member of the youth coaching staff.

Gainza is a key figure in the post-war history of Bilbao . . .

Next month — 1939-1977.

1902 — Madrid — Vizcaya 2, Barcelona 1
Team: Luis Arana (Bilbao); Careaga (Bilbao), Luis Silva (Athletic); Amado Arana (Bilbao), Larrainaga (Athletic), Goiri (Athletic); Cazeaux (Athletic), Juan Astorquia (Athletic), Dyer (Bilbao), Ramon Silva (Athletic), Evans (Bilbao).

1903 — Madrid — Bilbao 3, Madrid 2
Team: Acha; L. Silva, A. Arana; Goiri, Cockran, Ansoleaga; Sota, Montejo, Astorquia, Cazeux, Evans.

1904 — Athletic Bilbao walk-over

1910 — San Sebastian — Bilbao 1, Basconia 0
Team: Astorquia; Arzuaga, Amann; J. M. Belausta, Cameron, Graphan; Hurtado, Iza, Burns, White, Iceta.

1911 — Bilbao — Bilbao 3, Espanol Barcelona 1
Team: Astorquia; Arzuaga, Allende; Iza, J. M. Belausta, Mendiola; R. Belausta, Zuazo, Guernica, White, Smith.

1914 — Irun — Bilbao 2, Espana Barcelona 1
Team: Ibarreche; Solaun, Hurtado; Egula, J. M. Belausta, Iceta; Echevarria, Pichichi, Zuazo, Apon, R. Belausta.

1915 — Irun — Bilbao 5, Espanol Barcelona 0
Team: Ibarreche; Solaun, Hurtado; Cabieces, J. M. Belausta, Maestraitua; Echevarria, Pichichi, Zubizarreta, Iceta, R. Belausta.

1916 — Barcelona — Bilbao 4, Madrid FC 0
Team: Ibarreche; Solaun, Hurtado; Egula, J. M. Belausta, Cabieces; German, Pichichi, Zubizarreta, Iceta, Acedo.

1921 — Bilbao — Bilbao 4, Athletic Madrid 1
Team: Rivero; Beguiristain, Hurtado; P. Belausta, J. M. Belausta, Sabino; Villabeso, Pichichi, Allende, Laca, Acedo.

1923 — Barcelona — Bilbao 1, Europa Barcelona 0
Team: Vidal; Dunabeitia, Rousse; Sabino, Larraza, Lagarreta; Echevarria, Sesumaga, Travieso, Carmelo, Acedo.

1930 — Barcelona — Bilbao 3, Real Madrid 2
Team: Blasco; Castellanos, Urquizu; Garizurieta, Muguerza, Aguirrezabala) Chirri II, Lafuente, Iraragorri, Unamuno, Sauto, Gorostiza.

1931 — Madrid — Bilbao 3, Betis 1
Team: Blasco; Careaga, Castellanos; Garizurieta, Muguerza, Roberto Echevarria; Felipes, Iraragorri, Bata, Chirri II Gorostiza.

1932 — Madrid — Bilbao 1, Barcelona 0
Team: Blasco; Castellanos, Urquizu; Uribe, Muguerza, Echevarria; Felipes, Iraragorri, Bata, Chirri II, Aguirrezabala, Gorostiza.

1933 — Barcelona — Bilbao 2, Madrid 1
Team: Blasco; Castellanos, Urquizu; Cilaurren, Muguerza, Edenamio; Lafuente, Iraragorri, Bata, Unamuno, Gorostiza.

Runners-up: 1905, 1906, 1926.
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS.— 1930, 1931, 1934, 1936.
Runners-up) 1932, 1933.

Altafini retires

ONE MORE retirement — Jose Altafini has called it a day in Switzerland with Chiasso. At 39 he's finding the travelling up from Turin too tiring each weekend.

"If we'd won promotion to the first division I might have stayed," said the Brazilian forward, "but we missed out and I've got enough to think about with my business interests in Italy."

Altafini scored 15 goals for Chiasso — his fourth European club since Palmeiras sold him to Milan after he had helped Brazil win the 1958 World Cup in Sweden.

He had been born in Piracicaba on July 24, 1938 and joined Palmeiras in 1955, winning 12 caps under the name of Mazzola, because he resembled the Torino star of the late 1940s.

With Milan he reverted to his real name of Altafini and scored a record 14 goals leading them to the Champions' Cup in 1963, when they beat Benfica 2-1 at Wembley. Two years later, after falling out with Milan, he joined Napoli and stayed seven years before proving a reserve de luxe with Juventus in the league and Champions' Cup for another four years.

Altafini scored five goals in six matches for Italy. His first match was the 4-2 win over Israel in 1961, his last the catastrophic 2-0 defeat by Chile in the 1962 World Cup.

Weak group for Boca

BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) are in what appears to be the weaker of the two semi final groups of the Libertadores Cup (which were due to start play on July 3rd) against Deportivo Cali (Colombia) and Libertad (Paraguay) although their club officials had mentioned a desire to play against the two Brazilian teams, cup holders Cruzeiro and Internacional who are in the other group with Portuguesa — the first team from Venezuela ever to qualify for the semi finals.

Boca's desire stemmed not only from the financial point of view (as matches against the Brazilians would have been much more profitable). No doubt they also fancied their chances more. Boca Juniors are generally at their worst when they are forced to attack weaker rivals and have to create openings. Their strong point is not to create but to destroy — just the thing against Brazil's ball artists — and to counter attack.

In Deportivo Cali, now coached by former Estudiantes de La Plata half Bilardo, they meet a team moulded on the old Estudiantes "anti-football" style already put in evidence in several Libertadores Cup games this season. In other words, Boca will be facing a team not too different from their own. And Paraguay's champions, Libertad, the dark horses who won a close group against the Chilean teams, are not likely to play much entertaining soccer either.

Boca's defence is unbeaten in six Libertadores Cup matches, but they have only scored five goals — only once more than one a game — in gaining 10 points out of a possible 12. Both Libertad and Cali won their groups with eight points, but scoring more goals. Whatever their type of soccer however, there is no doubt that Boca Juniors has the best players in this semi final group — and perhaps also those most suited to win the Cup this year.

In spite of the fine show of Venezuela's champions, Portuguesa, against the Peruvian teams in group 5 (although the Peruvians frequently had to play without their internationals) they are not going to get very far against the Brazilian teams, so a Boca Juniors v Internacional or Cruzeiro final seems on the cards. But Portuguesa should be strengthened by the return of their latest big signing, former Brazilian World Cup star Jairzinho who hardly played in the earlier rounds because of injury.

● BRAZIL will tour Europe and several Arabian countries (not yet indicated) from April 1 to 19 next year, playing France, West Germany, Atletico Madrid and finishing with a match against England in London on April 19.

● JOAO HAVELANGE, the Brazilian president of FIFA, received the full backing from the South American Football Confederation and the North, Central American and Caribbean Confederation for his re-election to the FIFA presidency for 1978-82 at a meeting in Bogota recently.

CHINAGLIA SNIPES AT BEARZOT

GIORGIO CHINAGLIA may be away earning his money with New York Cosmos — though apparently he's not so happy there now — but he can't resist sniping at Italian soccer still.

His latest attack was directed towards national boss Enzo Bearzot, when he was commenting on Italy's World Cup chances.

Bearzot, said Chinaglia, once the darling of Lazio, isn't "fit to be in such a position. He's only good for carrying the luggage. He has no record as a coach and isn't up to the job."

It seems to me that Bearzot's record just in the past couple of years in charge of the *Azzurri* speaks for itself. Certainly he didn't allow himself to be needled by Chinaglia.

"I can't understand it," he said. "I've never had much to do with Chinaglia, except in 1969 when I used him in a Latin Cup game. He can say what he likes, I don't think I'll worry too much."

Under Bearzot Italy have played 16 games, winning 11, drawing two and losing three, scoring 34 goals and conceding 16. Before that, as second-in-command to Fulvio Bernardini, Italy played six games, winning one, drawing two and losing three.

That was immediately in the wake of the 1974 World Cup failure, after which Ferruccio Valcareggi stepped down after seven years in charge which included, as the high point, the World Cup Final in Mexico in 1970. Bearzot is now, following the retirement to Sampdoria of Bernardini, in sole command and well placed to lead his men to Argentina.

The former Inter and Torino wing-half travelled to South America to watch England against Argentina and Uruguay, but found his trip a waste of time. He doesn't expect to see England playing in such circumspect fashion at Wembley in November!

Finland versus Italy action

ITALY SINCE THE LAST WORLD CUP

Under Bernardini and Bearzot

Yugoslavia 1, Italy 0	— Friendly
Holland 3, Italy 1	— European Championship
Italy 0, Bulgaria 0	— Friendly
Italy 0, Poland 0	— European Championship
Finland 0, Italy 1	— European Championship
Russia 1, Italy 0	— Friendly

Under Bearzot

Italy 0, Finland 0	— European Championship
Poland 0, Italy 0	— European Championship
Italy 1, Holland 0	— European Championship
Italy 3, Greece 2	— Friendly
Italy 3, Portugal 1	— Friendly
U.S. Lge XI 0, Italy 4	— Bicentennial tournament
England 3, Italy 2	— Bicentennial tournament
Brazil 4, Italy 1	— Bicentennial tournament
Italy 4, Rumania 2	— Friendly
Denmark 0, Italy 1	— Friendly
Italy 3, Yugoslavia 0	— Friendly
Luxembourg 1, Italy 4	— World Cup
Italy 2, England 0	— World Cup
Portugal 2, Italy 1	— Friendly
Italy 2, Belgium 1	— Friendly
Finland 0, Italy 3	— World Cup

by Keir Radnedge

World Soccer Club Focus

DUKLA P CHAMPIO CZECHOSL

IT'S IRONIC that only in the enforced absence of Ivo Viktor — their sole outstanding player of the past 11 seasons — should Dukla Prague at last regain the Czechoslovak league title for the first time in all those years.

And just to underline what a topsy-turvy season it's been, it was in meeting a 4-1 defeat that the army team made sure of the title won previously in 1953, 1956, 1958, 1961-4 and 1966.

In their penultimate game Dukla crashed to Cup-winners Lokomotiva Kosice, but were assured of the crown since closest rivals, Inter Bratislava, also lost — 2-1 to Skoda Plzen.

In their last game, Dukla signed off in their own 60,000 capacity Juliska stadium, with a 4-1 win over Frydek Mistek. That result meant that Dukla finished four points clear and Frydek fell back into the second division, along with VSS Kosice. Their places will be taken next season by Tatran Presov and Dukla Banska Bystrica.

(Spartak Trnava, incidentally, champions five times in the past nine years, escaped relegation only by the skin of their teeth).

The foundations of Dukla's triumph lay in their runaway first half of the season, when they lost only once — 2-1 to neighbours Sparta. Strangely, that was one of the very few games Viktor played. Despite the pain from a serious back injury he took over in goal because young Jaroslav Netolicka, his replacement, was ill in bed with influenza.

Dukla were seven points clear of Slavia at halfway and running away with the title. But whether it was lack of nerve or experience — the average age without Viktor was sometimes only 24 — they slipped gently through the second half of their programme.

In the autumn they had been able to win vital games — such as a 1-0 success against Slavia — and Netolicka at one stage went 450 minutes without conceding a goal. But they suffered five defeats in the second half, finishing with this record:

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A neat way to celebrate the club's 30th anniversary — for Dukla had been founded under the name ATK, only in 1947, under government orders to provide a centre for footballers in the army.

For two years the policy produced nothing until, in 1951, someone had the bright idea of engaging Sparta's former international wing half named Karel Kolsky as coach. He would stay until 1959 and it was during his reign that ATK in 1953 became UDA (Ustredni Dum Armady — Central Club for the Army), then took the name of Dukla in 1956.

With the right visas you may still visit the Dukla pass, from where the club takes the name. The pass was the site of a famous battle with the Germans during the war, and leads from eastern Slovakia into Poland, and the town of Dukla.

At the time the club took its present name it played in the old, basic Strahov stadium — moving out in 1960 to the Juliska — but already in 1952 they had made their first two most important signings. Both newcomers came from Tatran Teplice — Josef Masopust and Ladislav Novak.

Masopust, born at Most to the north-west of Prague on February 9, 1931, was an inside forward, but Kolsky recognised his superb tactical brain and skilful touch, and converted him into one of the great left halves of the post-war era. His style was more reminiscent of an old-fashioned roving centre half, and he was the inspiration of the Czechoslovak team who reached the final of the 1962 World Cup in Chile.

He even scored the first goal in the final, against Brazil, before three tragic mistakes by goalkeeper Villem Schroif laid the way open for the world champions to turn the tables.

Nevertheless, Masopust's superb football earned the then 31-year-old the European player of the year award and he went on to a record 87 caps, ending his career in Belgium before returning home to coach Dukla, then Brno.

Signing

Kolsky's other major signing, Novak, was a big skilful left back, who would for years captain Dukla and Czechoslovakia. Elected Czech sportsman of the year in 1957, he set a record when he played his 75th — and last — international, beating the mark of Frantisek Planicka, the goalkeeper who captained the Czechoslovaks into the 1934 World Cup Final.

In 1953, Masopust and Novak's first season, the club won the championship, then reached the final of the Mitropa Cup in 1955, going down 6-0, 1-2 to Hungary's powerful Voros Lobogo. In 1956, now becoming Dukla, they took the championship again and also in 1958 to gain access for the first time to the new Champion's Cup.

Dukla went out to Manchester United in the first round proper, despite winning the Prague leg 1-0, but it was merely a sighting, preparation for their appearances throughout the sixties, when they won the championship four times in a row from 1961 and then again in 1966.

By now Kolsky had left, succeeded in 1959 by Josef Misil and then Jaroslav Vejvoda. He guided them until 1966, went to Poland to reorganise the Legia Warsaw team in which Kazimierz Deyna and Robert Gadocha developed, then returned to Dukla in 1970, where he remains.

The team Vejvoda took through those glorious years included another fine player in defensive right half Svatopluk Pluskal — a tailor by trade, who won 58 caps after moving to Dukla from Bata Zlin. Pluskal had been born in Gottwaldov, and that was the home town too of a young man who promised in 1960 and 1961 to set the world on fire.

Rudi Kucera was Czechoslovak top scorer in 1961, but missed adding to his half dozen caps in the 1962 World Cup because of a knee injury. A year later a clash of heads with the Gornik stopper Oslizlo put him on the danger list in hospital. He recovered sufficiently to regain a normal life, but his sense of balance had been disturbed, and an attempt to come back into football was a sad and brief failure.

Double

In 1961, however, everything was opening up for the club. The Czechoslovak Cup had been reconstituted and they won that to claim the double. They would take the Cup again in 1965, the double in 1966 and then the cup once more in 1969 — their last domestic triumph until this year.

They also played a part in the soccer missionary work in North America — winning the New York tournament in 1961, 1962 and 1963 — and in 1961, in the inaugural competition, they thrashed Everton 7-2, 2-0 in the final. Kucera scored 19 goals in eight games. The next year they beat West Ham in the final, and in 1963, Zaglebie Sosnowiecz.

In Europe Dukla reached the quarter finals three times in a row — losing to Tottenham in 1962, going down so narrowly to Benfica in 1963, and in 1964 to surprise packet Borussia Dortmund — losing heavily home and away. In 1967 they actually reached the semi-finals, but paradoxically with not such a good side — though it did include a meteoric midfielder in the blond Jan Geleta and a fine goalkeeper in . . . Ivo Viktor.

Viktor, born in Morawia on May 21, 1942, was always a young man with an old head on his shoulders. His father died when he was a child, and perhaps that's what helped provide the determination and ambition which would take him on to more than 60 caps, five player of the year awards, and third place in this year's European poll.

Viktor joined Dukla, for whom he played more than 350 league games, in 1963 — and the prospects weren't bright. Ahead of him

RAGUE NS IN OVAKIA

Dukla had Pavel Kouba and Vaclav Paulis.

But Paulis was reaching the veteran stage, and Kouba fell out with the club management and left for Sparta. So Viktor came into the team in 1965 and, 18 months later, was first choice for the national team for a friendly at Wembley against an England keen to celebrate their World Cup win with plenty of goals. Viktor was marvellous. England put out the team who had beaten West Germany 4-2, but neither Geoff Hurst, Bobby Charlton, Roger Hunt, Alan Ball or Martin Peters could put the ball beyond the stocky man in black.

Viktor had arrived. Over the next years he established himself among the top goalkeepers in Europe — even though Dukla were disappearing from the European Cup scene, and Czechoslovakia enjoyed an undistinguished 1970 World Cup campaign and missed out entirely in 1974.

In 1970, in Mexico, came one more memorable moment Viktor won't forget. This time he wasn't the hero — that honour was reserved for Pele. Inside his own half, seeing Viktor on the edge of the penalty box, Pele let rip from that massive distance with a long high curling shot which dropped just wide of goal as Viktor scrambled back hopelessly.

In 1975 he told Vejvoda he was thinking of retiring. Vejvoda told him not to be so ridiculous. So Viktor came back for a year of glory as Czechoslovakia beat West Germany on penalties to win the European Championship. Viktor had the delight of being his country's captain, and being named the outstanding player in the finals.

But it wasn't all plain sailing. In the last minute of normal time against West Germany, with the Czechs leading 1-0, Rainer Bonhof curled over a corner from the left and Heinz Flohe rose above Viktor to head the ball into the net. He had always admitted a weakness to dead ball kicks; now he had been caught out by one.

In the end it didn't matter and Viktor, once more persuaded out of retirement, returned to training in September to find disaster just around the corner. In diving to make a save in practice he fell awkwardly. A badly bruised back was diagnosed and he was kept immobile in hospital for three weeks.

Forget about football, doctors advised him. You're too old now. Playing on could be dangerous.

But Viktor went on training, even playing in a league match when Netolicka was ill. Then, during the winter league break, in a tournament match against the unknowns of Viktoria Zivkov, Viktor felt the injury again.

He had just been elected footballer of the year and had been all set to rejoin the national squad preparing at Zeist, Holland, for the spring matches which included the important World Cup qualifier away to Wales.

But, presented with his footballer of the year award, he could only smile wryly and say: "I'd happily swap this for a sound back . . ."

He wasn't even fit enough to travel, let alone play at Zeist and, without his ice-cool composure and leadership, the Czechs — a shadow of the side who won the European Championship — were then humiliated 3-0 in Wales.

Viktor waited until the end of the season and then, while everyone else was celebrating in the club, quietly announced his retirement. This time there was no chance of a comeback.

Dukla, of course, had reason to celebrate, despite Viktor's decision. Their league title marked more than a recovery, it marked a triumph over Czech soccer bureaucracy.

Breakthrough

In the middle of the 1960s the FA, worried at Dukla's takeover of young talent through national service backed up by cushy commissions, obtained a major breakthrough when it was decided at top level that, in future, all players seconded to Dukla during national service, should return to their club of origin at the end of two years.

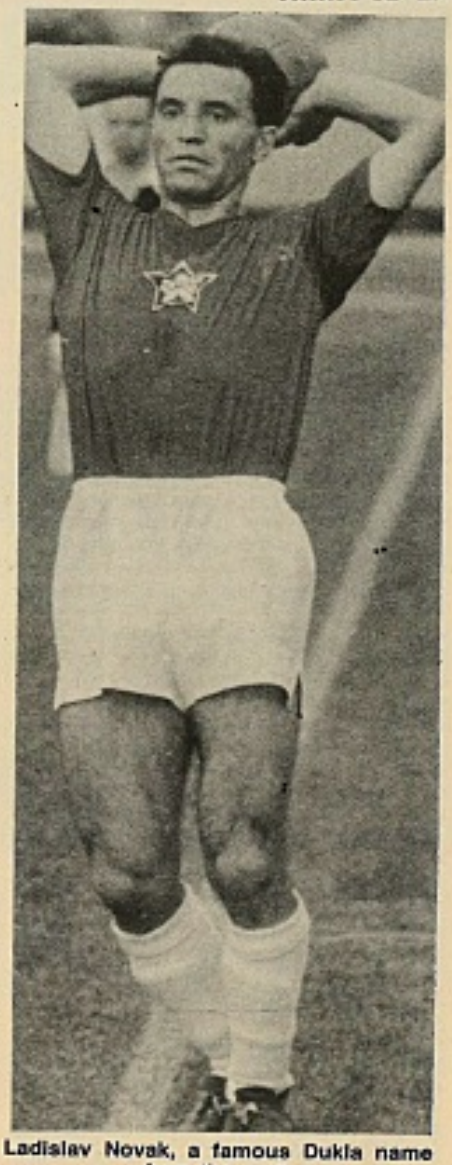
Also, other clubs became more adept at finding ways and means by which their players — fit enough for 90 minutes of football — failed army medicals.

That spelt the temporary dissolution of Dukla as a national — let alone international — force. But only for so long. Once the club had recalled Vejvoda and launched a reorganised youth programme they were on the way back.

Six of the present first team are youth internationals and, appropriately enough, Dukla's Champions' Cup rivals are another young team, in Nantes of France.

At the end of the season, despite their success, Dukla had a mini clear-out. One of the players to go was experienced defender Karel Dvorak, who had carried his club partnership with 30-year-old Vaclav Samek into the national team several times.

In Dvorak's place in the centre of defence next season will be Josef Capkovic, from Slovan Bratislava, whose experience of European competition could be vital. He will play alongside Samek, with the two full backs 27- year-old Ludek Macela and 30-year-old Jaroslav Bendl. In the reserves is also a highly promising 21-year-old left back in Karel Fiala.



Ladislav Novak, a famous Dukla name from the past.

In midfield Dukla rely on youth through Ivan Bilosky (21), Frantisek Stambachr –24, and on the verge of the national team — and Jaroslav Pelc, a 20-year-old who has been with Dukla since he was 12, and worked his way up through the youth sections.

Dukla's basic tactics switch between 4-3-3 and 4-4-2, with the alternating forward being experienced international Miroslav Gajdusek. He has plenty of skill and, even if he sometimes tries to do too much, provides a much-needed touch of individuality.

His star could soon be overtaken, however, by Dukla's most exciting new discovery, Ladislav Vizek. He is just 21, became a regular for the first time this past season and provided the sort of variety up front which contrasted well with the methodical spearhead, Zdenek Nehoda, who has already had his share of minor success at European level and always looks good for a goal.

As I write Dukla have still to complete their summer strengthening, but they have taken on another couple of promising youngsters already and the next few years promise to show us a welcome resurgence for the first Czechoslovak club to make much impression since the great pre-war days of Sparta and Slavia.

NEWS FROM HUNGARY by LESLIE VERNON

Baroti lays his bogey in World Cup...

ALL THOSE idealists who might think that 'results don't really matter' should have visited Marlow last week, where Europe's leading coaches met to lecture each other on the noble arts of ball control and technique. The permanent gloom clouding the rugged Miljanic face bore witness to Real Madrid's season of disaster, while there was a permanent smile on the lips of Helmut Schoen, back from W. Germany's surprisingly triumphant South American tour.

Stephan Kovacs, with four points in the bag from two World Cup matches, was especially optimistic about Rumania's chances of qualifying. But perhaps the happiest character around was my old friend, Lajos Baroti, "rejuvenated" team manager of Hungary. "The best thing that has ever happened to me," was his description of Hungary's victory in Group 9 of the World Cup.

"Very few people gave us a chance when we were drawn against the USSR, our bogey team. Even in the era of Puskas & Co., we found it difficult to beat them. When we managed to do just that in the Nepstadium the crowd went mad. I saw grown men cry, they couldn't control their emotions." Baroti didn't need much prompting from me to reveal the secret of his success.

"When I was in charge in the sixties, we always qualified for the Finals, but on the last two occasions, Hungary have failed. Consequently, F.A. President Istvan Kutas asked me to come back and try the impossible. I had a comfortable job with the F.A. coaching committee, but I couldn't resist the challenge.

"Early last season, I picked my team, and told the players that I trust them and in turn, I expect them to have faith in me. There might be better individual players in Hungary, but the current national side is a team in the real sense of the word. They were assured that they do not have to play for their places — as long as they perform reasonably well, they will be selected.

Payments

"Money did not come into it. We told them that there will *not be any bonus payments* for the World Cup matches. If we do qualify, there might be some recognition of their achievement but that was all! Since that time, not one of the players has mentioned money, because they obviously realize that they owe a debt to Hungarian football.

"For the play-off games against the South American team, we shall give preference to the players who have served us so well, but of course, there might be changes."

Baroti had to leave the UEFA-sponsored Conference a day early, because he was on his way to Cali to see the play-off tournament. "It will be a useful trip, because I shall see our next opponents and the other two countries we might face in Argentina. I do know the Brazilian players, and as you may remember, I worked in Peru fairly recently, but I do not know much about the Bolivians.

"Since before the '74 World Cup, the USSR had to play Chile first in Europe, I hope to persuade FIFA that this time the return-leg should be staged in Hungary."

"What's the programme for the autumn? The players come back from their holidays on July 4 for a five weeks' training spell. Early August we shall organize the usual Champions' Cup, Balaton Cup and Tisza Cup, which involve all Div. One sides. Then the clubs will be allowed to tour or take part in the various tournaments in Spain."*

National team

"The national team play Yugoslavia on October 5, Austria "B" four days later, and Sweden on October 12. Three matches in a week will put the same sort of pressure on them, and provide the same problems as a week would during the World Cup Final tournament. We shall also play Czechoslovakia in a friendly, then in November, we shall be ready for the games against Peru or Bolivia." Baroti, although cautious by nature, seemed supremely optimistic concerning the outcome of the qualifying tie.

Whether his optimism is justified or not remains to be seen, but it is a fact, that apart from the preparatory Central and South American tour last winter, Hungary have had an excellent international season. They only lost one of the seven matches played — against Russia away — when it was clear that the home game v. Greece would decide the issue. No less than five players, Balint, Kereki, Pinter, Pusztai and Toth, were ever-present in all ten games, which include the matches against Peru, Argentina and Mexico. Fazekas, Varadi and Gujdar played in nine games, Zombori in eight!

Nyilasi was the top-scorer with five goals, and Ferencvaros provided the highest number of players for the national team — seven! It seems too good to be true, but it appears that Hungary are back on the road to attain European prominence once again.

* The League season opens early September.

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River Plate three points ahead

Argentina goalkeeper Baleyo

THE Argentine Metropolitan First Division went into a two-month recess (to make way for the national team's series of seven home internationals) with River Plate leading by three points, but rather lucky to pick up three out of the last four.

River Plate came from behind twice to draw 2-2 with 10 men Estudiantes de La Plata 15 minutes from the end after the latter had their seventh player sent off this season. Then they beat recently promoted Lanus 2-0, but for most of the match it looked as if Lanus — with more of the ball and the field — were the leaders while River Plate used destructive tactics which are usually weapons of inferior teams.

Champions Boca Juniors, temporarily without Libertadores Cup worries, concentrated on the league with two easy 4-1 victories over Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata and Quilmes to move to within six points of the leaders.

On the last day clubs were without their internationals (already concentrated for the match against Poland four days later) which did not seem to upset River Plate and Boca Juniors (in spite of missing four and three men respectively). But Huracan (four internationals) and Independiente (3) could not overcome the loss, the latter ending an eight-game unbeaten streak against Argentinos Juniors (0-2) who have been playing good soccer lately.

Argentinos Juniors have a lot to thank their 16-year-old international Maradona — not picked for the squad this time — and Alvarez who is league top scorer with 13 goals, followed by Luñiz (Colon) and Nani (Lanus) with 11.

Overall the soccer continues to be poor. River Plate's frequent internal strife, their erratic form and Boca Juniors turning their back on the First Division in favour of the Libertadores Cup have so far robbed the competition of the class which perhaps only these two teams can give it.

IN BRAZIL, Vasco da Gama run out easy winners of the Guanabara Cup — first stage of the Rio-based Carioca League which they had been leading all the way — by winning 13 and only losing one of their 14 games (goals 40-5). But it was second placed Falmengo who made the headlines.

Although their 11-1-2 record would have been good enough to win a tournament at any other time, the failure of their expensive team to lift the title started an internal crisis and talk of replacing coach Claudio Coutinho — who is also in charge of the national team — by former national coach "Lobo" Zegalo who is presently on a lucrative coaching contract in Kuwait.

The club seem to have the money to lure him back judging by what they have just paid their international forward Zico, considered to be one of the best players in Brazil, to sign another two-year contract. Zico, 23, got a signing-on fee of 300,000 dollars, a monthly salary of 3,000 dollars and the win bonuses paid to the rest of the team.

IN PERU, newly promoted Bolognesi caused the surprise by winning section B of the inter zone championship on goal difference while section A had not been decided between Alianza Lima, Colegio Nacional de Iquitos and Sport Boys because of pending games. (The two group winners will play off for the right to enter next year's Libertadores Cup with the top four of the national championship which had just started at press time. International players getting ready for the World Cup South American final group are not allowed to play for their clubs and this has made the small clubs prominent at the start. Deportivo Junin is the only side with all its games won after every one of the 16 teams has played three.

The Peruvian FA has been intervened by the government's national sports institute, because "irregularities were found in its administration". The national team had already been under a government committee for some time.

IN COLOMBIA, Deportivo Cali, coached by Argentina's Bilardo (formerly of Estudiantes de La Plata) and already qualified for the Libertadores Cup semi finals, have gone unbeaten through their last eight games and climbed to second place in a determined late bid to win the "Apertura" Championship which has two games to go. Cali are three points behind Atletico Junior of Baranquilla, but have a game in hand. Cali also managed to take a point off the leaders at Baranquilla where Junior only equalised thanks to two penalties from their Argentine veteran winger Veron, another former Estudiantes de La Plata player.

IN CHILE, the air force club, Aviación, continued to lead the First Division by two points from vice-champions Union Española after going undefeated through their first eight matches. Champions Everton are a further point behind. Well known World Cup coach Fernando Riera resigned from sliding Palestino when the club said it had no money to buy the players he wanted. He was replaced by current national coach Caupolican Peña.

IN VENEZUELA, Valencia, Deportivo Italia, league champions Portuguesa and Estudiantes qualified for the final round of the Venezuela Cup by finishing in the top two places of the two groups. The cup winners will also represent Venezuela in this year's "Simon Bolivar" Cup tournament.

IN PARAGUAY we have what is probably the first case of a league championship being suspended while the national junior team is away. But Paraguay's squad for the Junior World Cup in Tunisia includes so many First Division players that league games were suspended until their return with Cerro Porteño, Guarani and champions Libertad jointly topping the table with eight points from five matches.

PETERS JOINS AZ'67

JAN PETERS, the 22-year-old who scored both goals at Wembley against England this spring, has at last been transferred.

After Holland's 2-0 win in London a large number of the well-endowed clubs from Western Europe cast eyes over the NEC Nijmegen midfielder who had once been hailed as "the new Cruyff".

At 22, Peters is hardly the equal of the Barcelona star and it's unlikely he ever will be, but Borussia Dortmund offered well over £250,000. Peters, however, waited until the season's end before deciding.

Four years ago a possible transfer to Feyenoord fell through because of a disagreement over the part-exchange terms NEC were demanding, and a year later a move to Ajax was virtually signed and sealed until the Amsterdam club's doctor complained.

He considered that Peters might prove a poor investment at £100,000 because of earlier knee trouble. The Ajax board called off the deal — much to the disappointment of their manager then, Hans Kraay, the ex-Feyenoord stopper.

Kraay himself did not stay much longer with Ajax, moving to ambitious AZ67 Alkmaar. He strengthened the ranks first by taking advantage of the row between Feyenoord and Wim van Hanegem to grab the World Cup schemer, and then by encouraging young striker Kees Kist.

Now Kraay has succeeded in signing Peters, and the best young Dutch player at the moment will be seen in European competition this coming season, since Alkmaar, by finishing third in the league, bring UEFA Cup soccer to a town previously known only for its cheese market.

At least they should have no problems in the first round. They have been drawn against Luxembourg minnows, Red Boys Differdange.

Kraay's original club, Feyenoord, are missing from Europe next season for the first time since 1964. Also missing this season are Roda Kerkrade, who gave Anderlecht a nasty scare in the first round of the Cup-winners' Cup last year.

With crowds falling and income as well, there have been few big-money transfers in Holland this summer, but Roda hope to have made a useful catch in 36-year-old Jan Jongbloed, World Cup goalkeeper in 1974, who has joined on a free transfer from FC Amsterdam.

Jongbloed was a shock choice for the World Cup team, since he hadn't been in the international reckoning for 10 years. But he gained the vote from Rinus Michels, and played in every game up to, and including, the 2-1 defeat by West Germany in the final — even if his daring sorties out of his penalty area set a few hearts missing a beat!

Jongbloed had been playing in Amsterdam for 18 years, and 1974 was without doubt his best, for the season after the World Cup saw Jongbloed leading his club into the UEFA Cup.

They reached the quarter finals before going down home and away to FC Köln. Jongbloed, an inspiration up until then, spoiled his image by a series of silly — and costly — mistakes, and by being shown the yellow card in both legs of the tie.

At the moment, new Holland boss Ernst Happel would probably be pleased if his problems were only about players.

Happel is combining the job of Holland team manager with that at Belgian league and cup-winners, Brugge. The only problem, of course, is that Holland and Belgium must meet in the World Cup qualifiers this autumn, and the Belgian FA are trying to ban Happel from any part in this tie!

Holland, after winning in Antwerp last season, are favourites for Argentina, which would increase Happel's reputation still further.

Would he ever return to his native Austria? — "Maybe I'll go back when I'm older and getting tired. But for the moment I can earn too much more elsewhere to want to go home. But I think I could do well with an Austrian team."

Happel, who once scored a hat-trick — two penalties and a free kick — against Real Madrid in an early Champions' Cup-tie, made his name with Rapid Vienna as a centre-back before winding up with a year or two in France.

World Cup data

DISTANCES BETWEEN THE VENUES
(and air travel times)

Venue	Buenos Aires	Rosario	Mar del Plata	Cordoba	Mendoza
Buenos Aires:	X	312 km	407 km	713 km	1100 km
Rosario	35 mins.	X	719 km	401 km	883 km
Mar del Plata	40 mins.	70 mins.	X	1120 km	1506 km
Cordoba	60 mins.	45 mins.	110 mins.	X	721 km
Mendoza	100 mins.	75 mins.	130 mins.	65 mins.	X

ARGENTINA'S two possible major problems in staging next year's World Cup finals are not directly connected with soccer . . . nor with terrorists.

While the rest of the world has been nervously eyeing terrorist activity in Argentina and wondering whether the country was a safe place for holding the World Cup finals, the largest terrorist group — the Montoneros — stated some time ago that it would not touch the World Cup because it is a "feast of the people". Apart from that, the government has been gradually winning the war against terrorism and, whether they want to or not, terrorists may not be in a position to mount a threat to the World Cup next year. At the same time security has been so tight on anything concerned with the tournament that it would be difficult for them anyway. Tight security measures may even become a nuisance at next year's tournament, but everybody will agree they are necessary.

So what are Argentina's major problems? Right now it looks like communications and tourism — and they are problems merely because the country is somewhat under-developed.

World Cup matches will be played at five venues comparatively far away from each other. From Buenos Aires, the main centre, the distance to Rosario is 312 km, to Mar del Plata 407 km, to Cordoba 713 km and to Mendoza 1100 km. (The table above shows the distances from one venue to the other and the time it takes to get from one to the other by air.) But in spite of all these venues being important cities, airports are hardly prepared to take heavy air transport, nor may domestic airlines be up to it. But the air force has offered to give a hand, also in improving airport facilities.

Road travel is virtually out of the question in view of distances involved, apart from which Argentina's road network leaves a lot to be desired. Work is going ahead, but both road and airport improvement would not have been necessary if the country were not a little behind the times, so to speak.

For the same reason the communication network — phones, telex, etc. — will require a lot of improvements for the World Cup simply because it is not up to scratch.

A 370 million dollar plan is under way to enlarge the communications service at World Cup venues. Apart from the installation of lines at the various stadiums (60 for phones and 20 telex at River Plate, 30 and 10 at Velez Sarsfield, the two stadiums in Buenos Aires, and 16 and 24 respectively at each of the other stadiums) and press centres at each venue, two telephone exchanges in Buenos Aires — the ones covering the area of the stadium and press centre — will get 10,000 more lines. Rosario also gets 10,000 more lines, Cordoba 5,000, Mar del Plata 4,500 and Mendoza 2,000. Meanwhile the projected increase of circuits for abroad is from 178 to 481 for phones and from 250 to 1,250 for telex.

So the World Cup is a good excuse to get things done which the country badly needs. The question is — will it be functioning 100 per cent by World Cup time. In Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata, speaking from experience, no improvement is as yet apparent in the often chaotic phone service.

The expected tourist influx for the World Cup has already received a big blow with the elimination of neighbours Uruguay. Only from there could Argentina have expected the thousands of day trippers which, coming from neighbouring countries, swelled attendance at matches during the last World Cup in West Germany.

Di Stefano returns to Colombia

ALFREDO DI STEFANO made much of his reputation as a young centre forward with the famous Colombian pirate club, Millionarios of Bogata.

Now he could be going back to Colombia to take over as manager of the infamous club side who recently held a West German B team to a 2-2 draw.

Colombia have been back inside the FIFA fold for 25 years now, of course, since the days when their clubs provided a short-lived El Dorado which tempted even a few British players, including Neil Franklin and Joe Mitten.

Millionarios have recently sacked manager Gabriel Ochoa Uribe, and di Stefano is on their short list. Meanwhile Raoul Seoane, one of his assistants when he led Boca Juniors to the Argentine title eight years ago, has landed a job with lower division Pontevedra in Spain.

Di Stefano is also on the Las Palmas short list, as is Real Madrid assistant coach Antonio Ruiz. Ruiz's chance was lined up by Luis Molowny, Madrid's Canary Islander who is chief coaching adviser. It could be a prelude to Ruiz returning to Chamartin next year in place of Miljan Miljanic.

Meanwhile, other moves . . . Santander have changed their mind and decided to sack Jose Maria Maguregui, despite staying up, and Nando Yosu takes over. Lucien Muller has quit relegated Zaragoza for Burgos, who just stayed up, while Arsenio Iglesias leaves first division Hercules to try to rebuild Zaragoza. They won't stay down for long.

Milorad Pavic has finally left Iberia after spells with Bilbao, Benfica and Malaga and returns to his native Yugoslavia with Vojvodina Novisad.

In the lower divisions Osasuna have sacked former Madrid defender Pachin and taken on Javier Garcia Verdugo in his place, hoping Garcia Verdugo can work a similar miracle to this past season, in which he took the third Madrid team — Rayo Vallecano — up into the first division for the first time.

Rayo's debut in the top flight will probably be handled by former Valencia midfielder, Hector Nunez. His first job will be to restore morale — the players were bitterly upset at their bonus for winning promotion — £500 each.

Another former Madrid defender, Manolo Sachis, takes over Tenerife, while Amancio is released from Madrid's youth coaching pool to manage their afiliated second division team, Castilla.

It's a vote of confidence for Amancio. Miguel Munoz made his name as a coach with Castilla after retiring from playing in the late 1950s and before returning to Chamartin as chief coach. Antonio Ruiz was coach to Castilla before becoming No 2 to Miljanic.

Finally, at the top of the league, Luis Aragones has officially signed on the dotted line of his new contract with champions, Atletico Madrid. But amid the party atmosphere and the celebrations, he said wistfully: "I carry on because I love football. But you know . . . I was happier as a player."

JAO LEIVINHA, Atletico Madrid's Brazilian forward, could hardly have chosen a worse moment to ask for a pay rise. After all, even though Atletico won the league, he only played in half the games because of injury and president Vicente Calderon was not amused. .

SPAIN'S youth squad went off to Tunisia for the World Youth tournament without their best young player, Real Sociedad's much-coveted Roberto Lopez Ufarte. Coach Chus Pereda included Lopez Ufarte in his original list, but the player complained that at 18 and after a full season being kicked from one side of the pitch to the other, he needed to spend the summer resting — not playing more football.

JOSE EULOGIO GARATE has quit soccer officially, bowing out with a brief appearance at the start of his testimonial game. Crowd receipts came to about £80,000 so Garate wasn't complaining about the match between Atletico and a Bilbao-San Sebastian selection. But some of the fans weren't so happy that the Bilbao-San Sebastian team was entirely changed at half-time. Bilbao, of course, were still in the cup, and didn't want any problem with injuries.

ANOTHER top referee has quit . . . Antonio Sanchez Rios, one of Spain's FIFA panel men, has decided he's had enough of the constant political warfare bedevilling the men in black in Spain.

ZALBA FACES HIS CRITICS

WHEN Jose Zalba was chosen two years ago to head Spain's 1982 World Cup organising committee, he seemed the ideal man for the job. Now he is discovering that he has enemies.

Zalba's qualifications for the committee work were apparently ideal. He was the go-ahead, urbane and highly intelligent chairman of one of Spain's most respected clubs — Zaragoza.

Relegated

Now some of his original supporters are calling for his head after a catastrophic year in which Zaragoza, for no good reason, sacked dependable long-serving coach Luis Carriega, and then were relegated.

"Is a man who can't keep his club in the first division the right choice to gather together all the strands involved in staging the World Cup?" is the question being asked.

Very shortly we shall see whether Zalba, who has put a tremendous amount of work into the World Cup planning, has his wits about him. A battle royal is being joined between the cities who want to stage World Cup games.

Madrid and Barcelona are certainties — the mayor of Madrid is even hoping to pool council resources with those of Real and Atletico and create a magnificent new all-sports complex. It's sorting out the other centres which will cause trouble.

Bilbao seems a must — whether the Athletic Club decide to go ahead with a new stadium to replace the 60,000-seater San Mames, or not — but there will be loud protests when the choice for the other centres is made between Vigo, Coruna, Valladolid, Seville, Oviedo, Gijon and Alicante. Club and local government officials from all these towns have presented their cases — now it's up to the committee . . . and Zalba.

Moat for Nou Camp

SPAIN'S clubs all expect to be set up with fencing to keep the fans off the pitch next season — all, that is, except Barcelona.

Money no object, they've spent £90,000 having a deep moat dug around the Nou Camp pitch — "so our fans can still have a clear view of the game," said secretary Juan Granados.

KUBALA IS 50

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ladislao Kubala, who reached 50.

Kubala, Spain's national team boss for not far short of 10 years, came to Barcelona in 1951 and went on to add caps for Spain to those he had won playing for Czechoslovakia and his native Hungary.

by Arthur Rotmil

Can Liverpool retain the Cup

VELAZQUEZ RELEASED BY MADRID

AT LAST, a needless two years too late, Real Madrid have turned out one of the last survivors of their 1966 Champions' Cup-winning team — Manolo Velazquez.

And the 32-year-old midfielder admitted: "I'm not surprised they don't want me any more. I'm only disappointed no one was honest enough to tell me before. For three years Miljanic and I haven't seen eye to eye."

Madrid suggested to Velazquez that he might like to retire gracefully and take a benefit match at the start of next season — trying to buy him off. Velazquez indignantly refused. He thinks he has at least one more good season in him in the first division, and Madrid have released him on a free transfer to find a club — "so I can show Miljanic where he went wrong."

Velazquez's demise came with the advent of Günter Netzer. Meanwhile one other Madrid forward who, it was thought, might be on the way, is staying. And Carlos Santillana promptly celebrated by getting married!

Madrid then completed the £310,000 purchase of Argentine all-rounder Quique Wolff from Las Palmas, where he was elected Player of the Year by the fans. Ironically Madrid could have picked him up three years ago from River Plate for £60,000 — but Miljanic and chief coaching adviser Luis Molowny thought the price extortionate!

Meanwhile Barcelona have moved into the transfer market for another double-nationality Argentino — Santander's young midfielder Rafael Zuviria. Zuviria came to Spain two years ago and grew so homesick that he was within an ace of running home. How fortunes change!

Barcelona also have vague hopes of a bigger capture — maybe Valencia's controversial Paraguayan Carlos Diarte, or Gijon's top scorer, Quini. Both seem unlikely to go through. Quini's goals brought Gijon back into the first division and they have already turned down — poor though they are — a £650,000 offer from the Catalan giants.

Quini has been twice top scorer in the first division, and twice in the second.

Valencia meanwhile, in their search for a new foreigner, are losing hope of landing Nancy's Michel Platini, despite their offer of £580,000 and a four-year contract for the player. Platini went off on the France tour of South America with nothing decided and while he was away Valencia asked FC Zurich to name a price for Rene Botteron.

If Zurich do let Botteron go, they may well use the cash to bring Ilja Katic back from Burgos. The Yugoslav was top scorer in Switzerland before moving to Spain a year ago, but as early as January he was contacting Zurich to ask if they'd like to get him back.

Also leaving Spain is Peter Lübeck, the West German forward who has hardly set the scene alight with Hercules of Alicante. He moves to Holland, and joins Ajax in time for their attempt to regain the Champions' Cup.

LIVERPOOL'S victory in the European Cup was greeted throughout the Continent with muted acclaim. In those quarters where only the results count the long overdue English success was praised with just one or two reservations. Elsewhere, especially in some countries still hankering after artistic football as served up by Real Madrid and Benfica in the early years of the competition, Liverpool were described as an efficient, but "heartless" machine.

From the British point of view Liverpool's win was "a just reward for persistence" — after thirteen years of continual participation in European tournaments and only two EUFA cups to show for it, the biggest prize in club football deservedly went to Anfield.

Of course, Liverpool's achievement must be acknowledged in the light of their team having not only won the European Cup, but the championship as well and they came very close to clinching a sensational treble. Some cynics will say that the "Reds" had luck on their side in the favourable draw, both in the FA Cup and in the European tourney.

True enough, the Merseysiders were drawn in every round at home, mostly against opposition from lower Divisions. And in Europe their pairings with the champions of Northern Ireland, Turkey and Switzerland, plus a fading St. Etienne (finished only fifth in the French League), helped enormously to the appearance in the final.

Motivation

Now, however, the question is: Can Liverpool, minus the departed Keegan, the retired Smith and possibly without the crippled Toshack and the ageing Callaghan, continue at the top in Europe? Is there enough motivation, will they find the inspiration to repeat their success?

Well, in the coming tournament Liverpool received a bye into the Second Round and could then be blessed by meeting, say, the winner of the tie Glentoran (N. Ireland) v. Valur Reykiavik (Iceland)! For despite UEFA's meticulous seeding system one or two First Round ties simply do not measure up to the high standard of the competition. Nevertheless, Liverpool will sooner or later have to face some of the big guns of whom probably the strongest are now Juventus, the champions of Italy.

I found it most enlightening to hear none other than Bill Shankly, the "godfather" of Liverpool's great team, say before the European Cup final: "For me the best team in Europe are Juventus. They are very, very fit. They're alive and urgent. Good minds. Balanced and hard. Give nothing away and the discipline of the Italian clubs keeps them in phenomenal condition".

Seven men

Such an admission from a man who as manager would never concede that any side could be better than his beloved Liverpool, was quite remarkable. Indeed for my money too, the way to winning this season's European Cup must lead across the path of the UEFA Cup holders Juventus who supply seven men to the current Italian national team. Juventus, making their eighth attempt in this competition, should have no problems in disposing first of Omnia Nicosia (Cyprus).

The next toughest challenge should come from a quartet headed by last year's finalists Borussia Mönchengladbach, who will immediately face a stern examination by the new Hungarian champions Vasas Budapest. The West Germans hope that their veterans like Heynckes and Wimmer will have fully recovered from troublesome injuries and that the now fit midfielder Danner regains his best form after a long absence.

FC Trabzonspor, champions of Turkey 1976-77.

Atletico Madrid must also crack a tough nut in Dynamo Bucharest. The Rumanian title holders boast of Europe's leading League goalscorer in Dudu Georgescu, who finished the season on 47 goals in 34 matches to win the coveted "Golden Boots" award presented annually by the sports equipment firm "Adidas".

Former European champions Ajax Amsterdam (10th attempt) may not be as formidable as in the early 'seventies, especially now that several internationals have followed Cruyff into richer pastures abroad, but they have scooped some young talent in Holland and must be reckoned with. Their opponents Lillestroem (Norway) haven't a hope. Belgium's representatives FC Bruges can also be relied upon to progress far and should account in Round One for Palloseura Kuopio (Finland).

Two former winners of the trophy are also determined to stamp their mark once again on the European scene: Celtic Glasgow, who have just regained the Scottish title and are making their 10th appearance here. And of course those old warriors Benfica Lisbon, who of the current contenders have taken part in the Champions' Cup more often than anybody else, namely 16 times!

But while Celtic should dispose easily of Jeunesse d'Esch (Luxembourg) — for the 12th time in this tourney! — the Portuguese club are facing Torpedo Moscow who may not be in the class of Dynamo Kiev, but nonetheless should prove a handful, particularly at home.

Rejuvenated

Two clubs re-living past glories, but now strengthened and rejuvenated and as outsiders to be feared, are Red Star Belgrade (10th attempt) favoured to beat Sligo Rovers (Eire) and Dukla Prague, who may find the new French champions Nantes more than they bargained for. Nantes who have taken over from the exciting St. Etienne, are capable of extending any side, though in Europe they have so far not exactly set any tournament alight.

Lesser rivals like Dynamo Dresden are expected to progress at the expense of Halmstad (Sweden) and the same can be said of Panathinaikos Athens, now under the command of the former Polish national manager Kazimierz Gorski. The Greeks should be too strong for Floriana (Malta), while Trabzonspor (Turkey) ought to eliminate BK 1903 Copenhagen (Denmark) and Glentoran Belfast can be backed to beat Valur Reykiavik (Iceland).

There are two evenly matched ties in which Levski/Spartak Sofia (Bulgaria) have infinitely more international experience than Slask Wroclaw (Poland), whilst the clash between Basel (Switzerland) and SSW Innsbruck (Austria) could go either way. The ties will be played on September 14 and 28.

In the 22 competitions for the Champions' Cup, run so far since 1955, a total of 211 clubs has taken part. But only ten clubs have won this prestigious trophy. After Real Madrid (1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1966), came Benfica (1961 and 1962), AC Milan (1963 and 1969), Inter-Milan (1964 and 1965), Celtic Glasgow (1967), Manchester United (1968), Feyenoord Rotterdam (1970), Ajax Amsterdam (1971, 1972 and 1973), Bayern Munich (1974, 1975 and 1976) and finally Liverpool in 1977.

The popularity of the European Cup not only remains undiminished, but gates have risen last season to produce the best average attendances for seven years! The figure of 34,325 spectators per match was last exceeded in 1969-70, when the average crowd was 37,222. The absolute record in the Champions' Cup was established 1959-60, when a staggering 50,545 fans per match was registered in the competition.

Tournaments

The other two tournaments do not of course come anywhere near such imposing figures. It was however interesting to note that there was little difference between the averages in the Cup Winners' Cup of 24,400 and the 23,800 in the EUFA Cup, as reported to the European Union. In fact the gate in the Cup Winners' Cup jumped from the average of 18,508 the previous season to 24,400 last term. Though this competition has only been running since 1960, a total of 266 clubs has taken part. Only AC Milan have won the trophy twice.

The three tournaments drew to 250 games last season a total of 6.6 million spectators. Of course, everything depends on the pairings, the size of the stadium the popularity of the teams involved and similar aspects which have little to do with the actual status of the competition. When for example Real Madrid, Red Star Belgrade and Dynamo Kiev were together in the Cup Winners' Cup (1974-75) they attracted to some of their ties 100,000 fans!

Liverpool are incidentally the only club who has appeared in the finals of all three European competitions: 1966 in the Cup Winners' tourney lost to Borussia Dortmund (1-2); 1973 won the UEFA Cup v. Borussia Mönchengladbach (3-2 home and away); 1976 won UEFA Cup v. FC Bruges (4-3 overall) and 1977 won the Champions Cup v. Borussia Mg. by 3-1.

Goals for Pele but leaves Tampa Bay

PELE finds his scoring touch, the Cosmos draw 62,394 to Giants Stadium, Eddie Firmani resigns as coach of Tampa, Toronto and Tampa slump as New York becomes the hottest team in the league and Dallas and Los Angeles are neck and neck in the Southern Division. These are the headlines as the North American Soccer League continues to attract more interest than ever before across the continent.

News from NORTH AMERICA by Colin Jose

But the biggest story of all is the rise to power of the Cosmos since the acquisition of Franz Beckenbauer from Bayern Munich. Since signing the talented German star the Cosmos have finally begun to look like serious challengers for the championship winning six games and losing just two while scoring 22 goals and giving up eleven.

Beckenbauer has become the hub around which the team revolves bringing out the best in U.S. international Werner Roth playing alongside him and allowing the talents of Vito Dimitrijevic full reign in midfield. It has also brought a resurgence of the Pele magic with the great Brazilian star scoring two hat tricks in three games.

The team now has a settled look for the first time in a long time with U.S. amateur international Shep Messing playing well in goal and two former Santos players Nelsi Morais and Rildo adding skill as well as experience at full back on either side of Beckenbauer and Roth.

In midfield Dimitrijevic plays between Ramon Mifflin and Pele, while up front English wingers Tony Field and Steve Hunt play on either side of Giorgio Chinaglia whose deft touches are producing more goals than he is scoring himself.

An added bonus is young South African star Jomo Sono who although not seeing regular action has been a revelation and certainly the discovery of this NASL season.

The 62,394 who showed up at the new Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey to see the Cosmos play their strong rivals the Tampa Bay Rowdies was a record crowd for a professional soccer game in North America surpassed only by the 71,619 who attended the Olympic final between Poland and East Germany at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal last year.

They were not disappointed as Pele scored a hat trick before Tampa replied with a goal from young Canadian international Wes McLeod. One week later 57,191 were on hand to see Pele score another three goals and break a 1-1 deadlock to give the Cosmos a 4-1 half time lead over the Los Angeles Aztecs. When it was all over the Cosmos had won 5-2 and topped the Eastern Division with 100 points, the most in the league.

Elsewhere in the Eastern Division Eddie Firmani who had done such a superb job both on and off the field as coach of the popular Tampa Bay Rowdies shocked the league by resigning for personal reasons while his team was still top of the league. Since then Tampa have been in a slump and dropped all the way to third behind the surprising Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

Championship

Tampa have won just one of their last four games playing first under Len Glover and then under former Chelsea player John Boyle who was a member of the Rowdies championship winning team in 1975. Adding to Boyle's woes in an injury list that includes leading goalscorer Derek Smethurst plus midfielder Mark Lindsay and also Davie Robb recently signed from Aberdeen.

Fort Lauderdale, who have done well against everyone but the Cosmos, now have an excellent chance of making the play offs. Their recent 3-0 home win over the powerful Dallas Tornado has made the rest of the league sit up and take notice. Ron Newman has done a first class job of rebuilding their team with the recent signing of Norman Piper from Portsmouth adding a lot of skill.

Washington under Dennis Viollet bring up the rear in the east and are not enjoying as successful a season as last year. A recent signing here is Bobby Stokes from Southampton.

In the Northern Division of the Atlantic Conference last year's champions the Toronto Metros-Croatia have slumped badly losing six of their last seven league games. Their only win after five losses came against Canadian rivals the Vancouver Whitecaps in Vancouver.

This game was a travesty of justice making a mockery of the NASL incentive systems for attacking soccer as the Whitecaps dominated the whole game. They hit the woodwork twice and had shots cleared off the line while Toronto goalkeeper Zeljko Bilecki made a number of first class saves. Yet Vancouver lost 1-0 in an NASL shootout after the teams were still scoreless following extra time. For all their attacking efforts the Whitecaps got nothing while for their negative defensive efforts Toronto got seven points.

Recent signings Drago Vabec and Veljko Tuksa from Dinamo Zagreb have failed to arrest the team's slide from first to fourth place and despite the obvious potential of the players Toronto are in danger of missing the play offs. Watching the team play one can only wonder if off the field problems are not contributing to the team's poor record on the field with the club in financial trouble and drawing poorly at the gate.

St. Louis have emerged as the leaders in this division and on current

Attendances leap in NASL

WITH the North American Soccer League schedule at a little over the half way mark attendances are up 23% over a comparable period for last season with the league average 13,022. Leading the league in attendances at this stage are the New York Cosmos who are the biggest drawing card both at home and away. In fact for a number of clubs their average is considerably inflated because they have had one good gate when the Cosmos visited. To a certain extent the figures reflect the rich and the poor with the Cosmos, Tampa Bay, Minnesota, Seattle, San Jose, Dallas and Portland the rich.

(* = games v. Cosmos)

Club	Average	Top	Bottom
Cosmos	29,125	62,394	13,527
Minnesota	28,966	37,846	23,491
Tampa Bay	25,656	45,288*	12,759
Seattle	22,497	26,423	18,240
San Jose	17,291	18,136	15,553
Dallas	16,645	21,182	12,238
Portland	13,324	15,764	8,794
Washington	12,089	19,216	6,508
Vancouver	8,780	10,519	6,922
Los Angeles	8,366	10,651	5,982
Toronto	8,168	21,793*	2,165
St Louis	7,119	9,123	5,607
Las Vegas	7,117	11,896*	5,183
Fort Lauderdale	7,034	14,358*	5,026
Chicago	5,835	21,108*	2,015
Connecticut	4,968	17,302*	1,222
Team Hawaii	4,835	12,877*	1,896
Rochester	4,631	5,247	4,033

Firmani Rowdies

form look like finishing first. John Sewell has remodelled this years team adding British experience to help his American players. Fred Binney is among the league's top goalscorers, while the return of U.S. international Gary Rensing to the defence after injury has strengthened the team in recent weeks during which time they have become the only club to have beaten the Cosmos.

An on again off again Rochester club are second here, while Chicago, whose coach Bill Foulkes recently resigned, are third. Former U.S. international Willie Roy is now interim coach of the Sting.

Connecticut at the bottom all season finally won their second game a 2-1 win over Rochester with Malcolm Musgrave replacing Bobby Thomson as coach. Attendances for Bicentennials games have slumped to just over 1,000 in recent weeks in sharp contrast to the large crowds in New York.

Handicap

After six wins in a row the Los Angeles Aztecs have lost twice in the past week 4-3 to Rochester and 5-2 to New York but still hold on to the Southern Division lead with 94 points to 91 for Dallas who had a fine 4-1 home win over Minnesota but blew the chance to take the lead when they lost to Fort Lauderdale two days later.

The battle looks like going right down to the wire here between two fine teams. George Best is playing well for the Aztecs and scoring regularly along with Steve David who is the league's leading scorer and keeping up a goal a game pace. For Dallas Kyle Rote is having his finest season in some time and also keeping pace with the league's leading scorers. Of course playing alongside Alan Hinton and John O'Hare is hardly a handicap.

Las Vegas and Team Hawaii trail the top two with the Quicksilver slipping slightly at the moment from their early season pace while Hubert Vogelsinger, like Derek Trevis in Las Vegas starting virtually from scratch this season, has given Hawaii respectability if not any real chance of championship honours.

Eusebio's contribution to Las Vegas in the goalscoring department has been nil to date in 11 games, while out on the islands Team Hawaii has a strong West Ham flavour with Tommy Taylor, Keith Coleman, Yilmaz Orhan, Peter Fox, Pat Holland and Keith Robson all playing regularly.

Surprisingly San Jose still bring up the rear here although not far enough behind for the team to be out of the race for a play off spot.

Minnesota continue to be the team to beat in the Western Division of the Pacific Conference while Seattle trailing along in last place for most of the season until now have suddenly caught fire winning six of their last seven games to vault into second place. Vancouver and Portland are still very much in this race which as usual should go right down to the last week before any team can be counted out.

Vancouver have a new coach in the person of Tony Waiters the ex-manager of Plymouth Argyle. He replaces Eckhard Krautzun who doubled as coach of the Canadian national team. Waiters has brought about a number of changes and produced better results. Derek Possee and Gordon Taylor have been signed along with Brian Bason from Chelsea. Waiters has also switched Canadian international Bobby Lenarduzzi to right back with considerable effect.

Outside of the NASL the United States national team played a game against the West German "B" team in Chicago losing 4-1. As is usual the U.S. players had little preparation for this game being drawn from mostly NASL clubs who only released them at the last minute with some hardly having had any sleep the night before the game.

GRID LINES CREATE PROBLEMS

ASIDE from the fact that the vast majority of soccer players hate playing on artificial turf for reasons that vary from the injury factor to burns and the fact that the ball bounces differently than on grass there is on a number of grounds the problem of confusing lines.

One such ground is Empire Stadium in Vancouver where both the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian (grid) Football League and the Vancouver Whitecaps of the North American Soccer League play.

Here as in similar cases across North America the field is permanently marked out for both games with the football lines much thicker than the soccer lines. While the soccer lines have little effect on football, the football lines cause considerable confusion in soccer.

Referees in particular have a hard time with the 20 yard line of football and the critical 18 yard line in soccer. Also due to the thickness of the football lines soccer players tend to think the ball has gone out of play for a throw in when actually it is still in play. Still other players are penalised for taking a throw in from the football line rather than the soccer touchline. To make matters worse in Vancouver the soccer markings are in red, while just recently Field Hockey markings have been added to further confuse the players.

Cost of removing the football lines for soccer is estimated at $3,000 for each game.

CANADA FACE EL SALVADOR

THE schedule for the final round of the World Cup in the CONCACAF zone released in Mexico recently shows that Canada will open against El Salvador in Monterrey, Mexico on October 8. In its bid for a place in the final rounds in Argentina next year Canada will then play Surinam in Mexico City on October 12, Guatemala in Mexico City on October 16, Haiti in Monterrey on October 19 and finally Mexico in Mexico City on October 22.

Canadian national team coach Eckhard Krautzun is currently isolated from what is taking place in Canada however, having left his coaching post with the Vancouver Whitecaps and returned to his native West Germany. Krautzun will not return to Canada until August just before the training camp opens because the Canadian Soccer Association does not have the funds to employ him on a full time basis.

In the meantime national team manager John McMahon is putting together a pool of players on behalf of Krautzun with the idea that about 40 will be invited to the training camp after the NASL season is over. The NASL has instructed all of its U.S. teams with Canadian players on their rosters to release the players to play for Canada if selected.

Searching for a striker the Canadians recently made enquiries about Warren Feeney of Glentoran of the Irish League. Feeney, who was Footballer of the Year in Northern Ireland last year is a Canadian citizen, but as he has already played in a full international for Northern Ireland it is unlikely that he could now play for Canada. Stephen Feeney, the younger brother of Warren who plays for Bangor City and is also a Canadian citizen according to team manager McMahon is likely to be asked to join the Canadian pool.

ARG

ASIA Winners of Groups I to IV to be known by 31.3.77				OCEANIA Winner to be known by 31.7.77
Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Hong Kong Indonesia Malaysia Thailand Singapore Sri Lanka	Israel Japan Rep. Korea	Iran Saudi Arabia Syria	Bahrain Kuwait Qatar	Australia New Zealand Taiwan
1 winner	1 winner	1 winner	1 winner	Winner Oceania
		1.4 to 31.7.77 Winner ASIA	1.8 to 30.11.77	
			Qualified for Argentina	

ASIA/OCEANIA
Australia 3, New Zealand 1
Taiwan 0, Australia 3
Australia 2, Taiwan 1
N. Zealand 6, Taiwan 0
N. Zealand 1, Australia 1
Taiwan 0, N. Zealand 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
New Zealand	4	2	1	1	14	4	5
Taiwan	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

Group 1
Singapore 2, Thailand 0
Indonesia 1, Hong Kong 4
Malaysia 6, Thailand 4
Singapore 2, Hong Kong 2
Indonesia 0, Malaysia 0
Hong Kong 2, Thailand 1
Singapore 1, Malaysia 0
Thailand 3, Indonesia 2
Hong Kong 1, Malaysia 1
Singapore 4, Indonesia 0
Play-off
Singapore 0, Hong Kong 1

Group 2
27. 2.77 Israel 0, Korea Rep. 0
6. 3.77 Israel 2, Japan 0
13. 3.77 Japan 0, Israel 2
20. 3.77 Korea Rep. 3, Israel 1
26. 3.77 Japan 0, Korea Rep. 0
3. 4.77 Korea Rep. 1, Japan 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea Rep.	4	2	2	0	4	1	6
Israel	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Japan	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

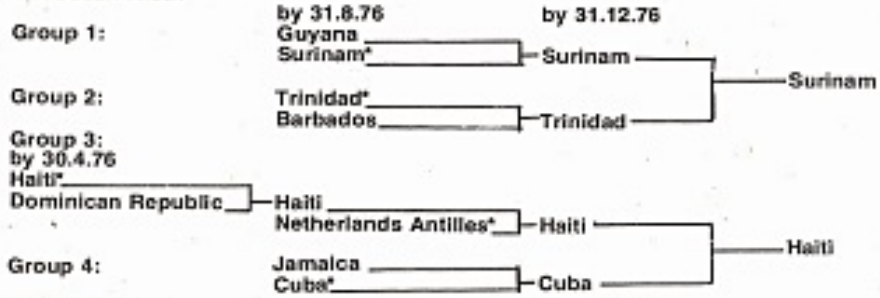
Group 3
12.11.76 Saudi Arabia 2, Syria 0
26.11.76 Syria 2, Saudi Arabia 1
7. 1.77 Saudi Arabia 0, Iran 3
28. 1.77 Syria 0, Iran 1
22. 4.77 Iran 2, Saudi Arabia 0
29. 4.77 Iran 2, Syria 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	4	4	0	0	8	0	8
Saudi Arabia	4	1	0	3	3	7	2
Syria	4	1	0	3	2	6	2

Group 4
Bahrain 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 0, Qatar 2
Qatar 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 1, Kuwait 2
Qatar 0, Bahrain 3
Qatar 1, Kuwait 4
(all matches played in Qatar)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	4	4	0	0	10	2	8
Qatar	4	1	0	3	3	9	2
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	4	6	2

CONCACAF
Caribbean Area:



Caribbean Area
2. 4.76 Dom. Republic 0, Haiti 3
17. 4.76 Haiti 3, Dom. Republic 0
4. 7.76 Guyana 2, Surinam 0
31. 7.76 N. Antilles 1, Haiti 2
14. 8.76 Haiti 7, N. Antilles 0
15. 8.76 Barbados 2, Trinidad/Tobago 1
15. 8.76 Jamaica 1, Cuba 3
29. 8.76 Cuba 2, Jamaica 0
29. 8.76 Surinam 3, Guana 0
31. 8.76 Trinidad/Tobago 1, Barbados 0
14. 9.76 Trinidad/Tobago 3, Barbados 1 (3rd match in Barbados)
14.11.76 Surinam 1, Trinidad/Tobago 1
28.11.76 Trinidad/Tobago 2, Surinam 2
18.12.76 Surinam 3, Trinidad/Tobago 2
28.11.76 Cuba 1, Haiti 1
11.12.76 Haiti 1, Cuba 1
Play-off Haiti 2, Cuba 0

EUROPE

Group 1
23. 5.76 Cyprus 1, Denmark 5
16.10.76 Portugal 0, Poland 2
27.10.76 Denmark 5, Cyprus 0
31.10.76 Poland 5, Cyprus 0
17.11.76 Portugal 1, Denmark 0
5.12.76 Cyprus 1, Portugal 2
1. 5.77 Denmark 1, Poland 2
15. 5.77 Cyprus 1, Poland 3
21. 9.77 Poland v Denmark
29.10.77 Poland v Portugal
16.11.77 Portugal v Cyprus
Denmark v Portugal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	4	0	0	12	2	8
Denmark	4	2	0	2	11	4	4
Portugal	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
Cyprus	5	0	0	5	3	20	0

Group 2
13. 6.76 Finland 1, England 4
22. 9.76 Finland 7, Luxembourg 1
13.10.76 England 2, Finland 1
16.10.76 Luxembourg 1, Italy 4
17.11.76 Italy 2, England 0
30. 3.77 England 5, Luxembourg 0
26. 5.77 Luxembourg 0, Finland 1
8. 6.77 Finland 0, Italy 3
12.10.77 Luxembourg v England
15.10.77 Italy v Finland
16.11.77 England v Italy
3.12.77 Italy v Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
England	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
Finland	5	2	0	3	10	10	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	2	17	2

Group 3
31.10.76 Turkey 4, Malta 0
17.11.76 German DR 1, Turkey 1
5.12.76 Malta 0, Austria 1
2. 4.77 Malta 0, German DR 1
17. 4.77 Austria 1, Turkey 0
30. 4.77 Austria 9, Malta 0
24. 9.77 Austria v German DR
12.10.77 German DR v Austria
29.10.77 German DR v Malta
30.10.77 Turkey v Austria
16.11.77 Turkey v German DR
27.11.77 Malta v Turkey

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	3	3	0	0	11	0	6
Germany DR	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	2	3
Malta	4	0	0	4	0	15	0

Group 4
5. 9.76 Iceland 0, Belgium 1
8. 9.76 Iceland 0, Netherlands 1
13.10.76 Netherlands 2, Northern Ireland 2
10.11.76 Belgium 2, Northern Ireland 0
26. 3.77 Belgium 0, Netherlands 2
11. 5.77 Iceland 1, Northern Ireland 0
31. 8.77 Netherlands v Iceland
4. 9.77 Belgium v Iceland
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland v Netherlands
26.10.77 Netherlands v Belgium
16.11.77 Northern Ireland v Belgium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Belgium	3	2	0	1	3	2	4
Iceland	3	1	0	2	1	2	2
N. Ireland	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Group 5
9.10.76 Bulgaria 2, France 2
17.11.76 France 2, Eire 0
30. 3.77 Eire 1, France 0
1. 6.77 Bulgaria v Eire
12.10.77 Eire v Bulgaria
16.11.77 France v Bulgaria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Eire	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	2	2	1

Group 6
16. 6.76 Sweden 2, Norway 0
8. 9.76 Norway 1, Switzerland 0
9.10.76 Switzerland 1, Sweden 2
8. 6.77 Sweden v Switzerland
7. 9.77 Norway v Sweden
30.10.77 Switzerland v Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Norway	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Switzerland	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group 7
13.10.77 Czechoslovakia 2, Scotland 0
17.11.76 Scotland 1, Wales 0
30. 3.77 Wales 3, Czechoslovakia 0
21. 9.77 Scotland v Czechoslovakia
12.10.77 Wales v Scotland
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia v Wales

ENTINA '78

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Czechoslovakia	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	2	2

Group 8
10.10.76 Spain 1, Yugoslavia 0
6. 4.77 Rumania 1, Spain 0
8. 5.77 Yugoslavia 0, Rumania 2
6.10.77 Spain v Rumania
3.11.77 Rumania v Yugoslavia
30.11.77 Yugoslavia v Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Spain	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group 9
9.10.76 Greece 1, Hungary 1
24. 4.77 USSR 2, Greece 0
30. 4.77 Hungary 2, USSR 1
10. 5.77 Greece 1, USSR 0
18. 5.77 USSR 2, Hungary 0
25. 5.77 Hungary 3, Greece 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
USSR	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Greece	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)
Northern Area
24. 9.76 Canada 1, USA 1
3.10.76 USA 0, Mexico 0
10.10.76 Canada 1, Mexico 0
15.10.76 Mexico 3, USA 0
20.10.76 USA 2, Canada 0
27.10.76 Mexico 0, Canada 0

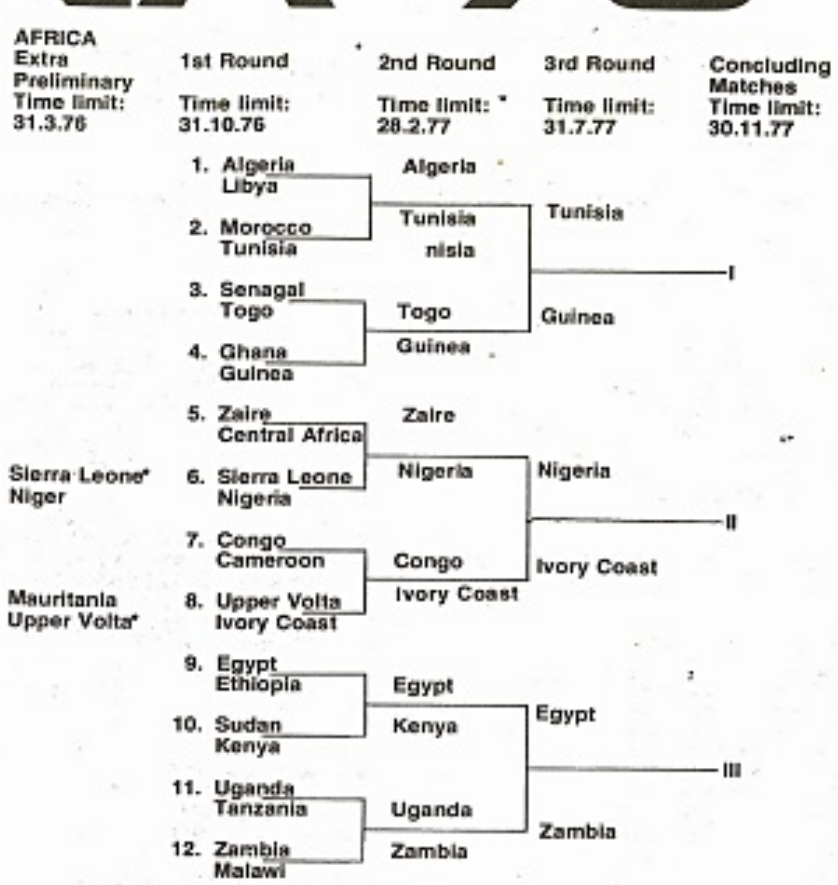
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	1	2	1	3	1	4
Canada	4	1	2	1	2	3	4
USA	4	1	2	1	3	4	4

Central Area
4. 4.76 Panama 3, Costa Rica 2
2. 5.76 Panama 1, El Salvador 1
11. 7.76 Costa Rica 3, Panama 0
1. 8.76 El Salvador 4, Panama 1
17. 9.76 Panama 2, Guatemala 4
26. 9.76 Guatemala 7, Panama 0
1.12.76 El Salvador 1, Costa Rica 1
5.12.76 Costa Rica 0, Guatemala 0
8.12.76 Guatemala 3, El Salvador 1
12.12.76 Guatemala 1, Costa Rica 1
17.12.76 Costa Rica 1, El Salvador 1
19.12.76 El Savador 2, Guatemala 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	6	3	2	1	15	6	8
El Salvador	6	2	3	1	10	7	7
Costa Rica	6	1	4	1	8	6	6
Panama	6	1	1	4	7	21	3

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary Round
7. 3.76 Sierra Leone 5, Niger 1
21. 3.76 Niger 2, Sierra Leone 1
13. 3.76 Upper Volta 1, Mauritania 1
28. 3.76 Mauritania 0, Upper Volta 2

First Round
1. 4.76 Algeria 1, Libya 0
16. 4.76 Libya 0, Algeria 0
9. 5.76 Zambia 4, Malawi 0
30. 5.76 Malawi 0, Zambia 1
4. 9.76 Upper Volta 1, Ivory Coast 1
25. 9.76 Ivory Coast 2, Upper Volta 0
31.10.76 Senegal 1, Togo 1
17.10.76 Togo 1, Senegal 0
10.10.76 Ghana 2, Guinea 1
16.10.76 Sierra Leone 0, Nigeria 0
30.10.76 Nigeria 6, Sierra Leone 2



(Tanzania, Sudan, Central Africa and Zaire withdrew)

17.10.76 Congo 2, Cameroon 2
31.10.76 Cameroon 0, Congo 2
Guinea 2, Ghana 1
29.10.76 Egypt 3, Ethiopia 0
14.11.76 Ethiopia 1, Egypt 2
12.12.76 Morocco 1, Tunisia 1
9. 1.77 Tunisia 1, Morocco 1
16. 1.77 Ghana 0, Guinea 2
(play-off)

Second Round
Tunisia 2, Algeria 0
Algeria 1, Tunisia 1
Togo 0, Guinea 2
Guinea 2, Togo 1
Congo 2, Ivory Coast 3
Ivory Coast 3, Congo 1
Kenya 0, Egypt 0
Egypt 1, Kenya 0
Uganda 1, Zambia 0
Zambia 2, Uganda 1

5. 6.77 Guinea v Tunisia
19. 6.77 Tunisia v Guinea
Ivory Coast v Nigeria
Nigeria v Ivory Coast
15. 7.77 Egypt v Zambia
31. 7.77 Zambia v Egypt

SOUTH AMERICA
Group 1
20. 2.77 Colombia 0, Brazil 0
24. 2.77 Colombia 0, Paraguay 1
6. 3.77 Paraguay 1, Colombia 1
9. 3.77 Brazil 6, Colombia 0
13. 3.77 Paraguay 0, Brazil 1
17/20. 3.77 Brazil 1, Paraguay 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	2	2	0	8	1	6
Paraguay	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Colombia	4	0	2	2	1	8	2

Group 2
9. 2.77 Venezuela 1, Uruguay 1
27. 2.77 Bolivia 1, Uruguay 0
6. 3.77 Venezuela 1, Bolivia 3
13. 3.77 Bolivia 2, Venezuela 0
17. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Venezuela 0
27. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Bolivia 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivia	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Uruguay	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

Group 3
20. 2.77 Ecuador 1, Peru 1
27. 2.77 Ecuador 0, Chile 1
6. 3.77 Chile 1, Peru 1
12. 3.77 Peru 4, Ecuador 0
20. 3.77 Chile 3, Ecuador 0
26. 3.77 Peru 2, Chile 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peru	4	2	2	0	8	2	6
Chile	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

Classified Results

FULL INTERNATIONALS

May 24

MEXICO 2 PERU 1

May 27

HAITI 1 PERU 2

May 29

ARGENTINA (1) 3 (Bertoni 2(1 pen.), Luque)
POLAND (1) 1 (Lato)
Att: 57,000

Argentina: Gatti, Pernia, Olguin, Killer, Carrascosa, Ardiles, Gallego, Villa (Bochini), Bertoni, Luque, Ortiz (Larrosa).

Poland: Tomaszewski, Dziuba, Zmuda, Kasperczak, Rudy, Boniek (Nawalka), Deyna, Masztaler, Lato, Szarmach, Terlecki (Mazur).

Referee: Jose Romel, (Paraguay).

HAITI (1) 2 (Dominique pen., Vorbe) **PERU (0) 2** (Velazquez, Ramirez pen.)

Haiti: Piquant, Bayonne, Jean-Joseph, Labissiere, Mathieu, Romulus, Desir, Antoine, Brevil, Dominique, Vorbe.

Peru: Gonzalez, Soria, Melendez, Duarte, Diaz, Velazquez, Quesada, Rojas, Palacios, Sotil, Oblitas.

June 5

ARGENTINA (0) 1 (Passarella)
WEST GERMANY (1) 3 (Fischer 2, Holzenbein)
Att: 60,000

Argentina: Gatti, Pernia, Olguin, Passarella, Carrascosa (Tarantini), Ardiles, Gallego, Villa (Bochini), Bertoni, Luque, Larrosa (Ortiz).

West Germany: Franke, Kaltz, Vogts, Russmann, Dietz, Bonhof, Beer (Rummenigge), Holzenbein, Abramczik, Fischer, Volkert.

June 8

URUGUAY (0) 0
WEST GERMANY (1) 2 (Flohe, Muller)
Att: 50,000

Uruguay: Correa (Clavijo), Rivadavia, De los Santos, Salomon, Javier, Carrasco, Pereira, Manero, Rudy Rodriguez, Santelli, Olivera (Muletahler).

West Germany: Burdenski, Vogts, Kaltz, Russmann, Dietz, Bonhof, Flohe, Rummenigge, Magath, Mueller, Volkert (Abramczik, Holzenbein).

Referee: Arturo Ithurralde (Argentina).

June 8

BRAZIL (0) 0
ENGLAND (0) 0
Att: 80,000

England: Clemence, Neal, Hughes, Cherry, Watson, Greenhoff, Wilkins (Channon), Keegan, Francis, Pearson (Kennedy), Talbot.

Brazil: Leao, Ze Maria, Amaral, Edinho, Rodrigues Neto, Cerezo, Zico, Rivelino, Gil (Ze Mario), Roberto, Paulo Cesar.

June 10

PERU (0) 1 (Luces)
POLAND (1) 3 (Szarmach, Deyna, Kasperczak)
Att: 20,000

Peru: Quiroga, Soria (Navarro), Melendez, Duarte, Diaz (Escobar), Quesada, Sotil (Luces), Velazquez, Ramirez, Rojas, Oblitas.

Poland: Tomaszewski, Dziuba, Zmuda, Maklewicz, Janas, Kasperczak, Deyna, Masztaler (Boniek), Lato, Szarmach (Maszur), Nawalka.

Referee: Cesar Orozco (Peru).

June 12

BRAZIL (0) 1 (Rivelino)
WEST GERMANY (0) 1 (Fischer)
Att: 106,000

Brazil: Leao, Ze Maria, Luis Pereira, Amaral, Rodrigues Neto, Toninho Cerezo, Rivelino, Zico, Gil (Marcelo), Roberto, Paulo Cesar.

West Germany: Maier, Vogts, Kaltz, Rosmann, Dietz, Bonhof, Beer (Flohen), Holzenbein (Dorfagen), Abramczik, Fischer, Volkert.

Referee: Luis Pestarino (Argentina).

BOLIVIA (1) 1 (Jimenez)
POLAND (1) 2 (Lato, Kasperczak)

Bolivia: Peinado, Campos (Dellano) Lima, Rimazza, Valdivieso, Angulo, Mezza (Romero), Morales, Aragones, Jimenez (Reynaldo), Aguilar.

Poland: Tomaszewski, Dziuba, Zmuda, Markusevich, Janas, Deyna, Kasperczak, Masztaler, Lato, Szarmach, Nawalka.

ARGENTINA (1) 1 (Bertoni)
ENGLAND (1) 1 (Pearson)
Att: 60,000

Argentina: Baley, Pernia, Killer, Passarella, Tarantini, Ardiles, Gallego, Bochini (Larrosa), Bertoni (sent off 92m), Luque, Ortiz (Rocha).

England: Clemence, Neal, Hughes, Watson, Cherry (sent off 93m), Wilkins, Keegan, Greenhoff (Kennedy), Talbot, Channon, Pearson.

Referee: Ricon Barreto (Uruguay).

June 15

CHILE (0) 2 (Crisosto 2)
SCOTLAND (3) 4 (Dalglish, Macari 2, Hartford)
Att: 60,000

MEXICO (2) 2 (Isiordia, De La Torre)
WEST GERMANY (0) 2 (Fischer 2)
Att: 80,000

Mexico: Castrejon, Najera, Guzman, Galindo, Vazquez, Ayala, De La Torre, Guillen, Isiordia, Aceves, Cuellar.

West Germany: Maier, Vogts, Russmann, Kaltz, Dietz, Bonhof, Flohe, Holzenbein, Abramczik, Muller (Fischer), Beer.

URUGUAY (0) 0
ENGLAND (0) 0
Att: 25,000

Uruguay: Clavijo, Rivadavia, De Los Santos, Salomon, Javier, Pereyra, Rudy Rodriguez, Carrasco, Santelli, Manero, Olivera.

England: Clemence, Neal, Hughes, Watson, Cherry, Greenhoff, Keegan, Talbot, Pearson, Channon, Wilkins.

June 18

ARGENTINA (0) 1 (Passarella pen.)
SCOTLAND (0) 1 (Masson pen.)
Att: 57,000

Argentina: Baley, Pernia (sent off 56m), Killer, Passarella, Carrascosa, Ardiles, Gallego, Larrosa (Trossero), Gonzalez (Tarantini), Luque, Houseman.

Scotland: Rough, McGrain, Buchan, Forsyth, Donachie, Masson, Hartford, Gemmill, Dalglish, Macari, Johnston (sent off 56m).

Referee: R. Arpi (Brazil).

June 19

BRAZIL (2) 3 (Paulo Isidoro, Reinaldo, Rivelino)
POLAND (0) 1 (Boniek)
Att: 100,000

Brazil: Leao, Ze Maria (Orlando), Luis Pereira, Amaral, Rodrigues Neto (Marinho), Paulo Isidoro, Cerezo, Rivelino (Pintinho), Gil, Reynaldo, Paulo Cesar.

Poland: Tomaszewski (Zubiewski), Dziuba, Maculewicz, Zmuda, Janas, Wieczorek (Boniek), Kasperczak, Deyna, Lato, Szarmach (Nawalka), Nawalka.

June 23

BRAZIL (0) 2 (Zico, Cerezo)
SCOTLAND (0) 0
Att: 60,700

Brazil: Leao, Ze Maria, Luiz Pereira, Edinho, Marinho, Cerezo, Paulo Isidoro, Rivelino, Gil (Zico), Reinaldo, Paulo Cesar.

Scotland: Rough, McGrain, Forsythe, Buchan, Donachie, Gemmill, Masson, Dalglish, Rioch, Hartford, Johnson (Blackley).

Referee: O. Scottaro (Brazil).

LIBERTADORES CUP
(South American club championship)
Group 2

May 19

DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) 3
BOLIVAR (Bolivia) 0

NACIONAL (Colombia) 3
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) 1

May 23

DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) (2) 3 (Scotta, Benitez, Calero)
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) 0
Att: 60,000

Dep. Cali: Leone, Calzado, Montufar, Rogel, Castro, Landucci, Calero, Umana, Torres, Scotta, Benitez.

Oriente Petrolero: Hoyos, Moreno, Campos, Espinoza, Arias, Tardolay, Herbas, Marafion, Jimenez, Franco, Romero.

Referee: Vicente Llobregad (Venezuela).

NACIONAL (Colombia) (1) 1 (Aristizabal)
BOLIVAR (Bolivia) (0) 0

Nacional: Navarro, Salgado, Lopez, Maturana, Sarmiento, Palacz, Herrera, Racheti, Aristizabal, Palavecino, Bovedia.

Bolivar: Jimenez, Gallo, Lima, Trocone, Valdivieso, Aragones, Rimazza, Gongora, Bastidas, Morales, Lugo.

(Group 2 (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep. Cali (Colombia)	6	4	0	2	12	5	8
Bolivar (Bolivia)	6	2	1	2	7	4	7
Oriente Petrolero (Bolivia)	6	2	1	3	5	7	5
Nacional (Colombia)	6	2	0	4	6	14	4

Kenny Dalglish in action for Scotland against Argentina in Buenos Aires.

Archie Gemmill suffers from subtle Argentinian shirt-pulling during the international in Buenos Aires. Picture by Peter Robinson.

Group 5
May 20
UNION HUARAL (Peru) 2
ESTUDIANTES (Venezuela) 1

May 24
PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) (0) 0
SPORT BOYS (Peru) (0) 0

Portuguesa: Garate, Marin, Buzzo, Marcenaro, Salas, Nito de Lima, Nunez, Moss (Sopic), Silva, Peralta, Echenausi (Irlano).

Sport Boys: Carrizales, Reyes, Salazar, Guerrero, Quintana, Gardella, Gil, Zorilla (Scolari), Loo (Lobaton), La Rosa, Laberthe.

Referee: Amaldo Coelho (Brazil).

May 27
ESTUDIANTES (Venezuela) (0) 1 (Scarpeccio)
SPORT BOYS (Peru) (0) 0

Estudiantes: Oriolo, Rivas, Scaminacci, Paez, Tello, Roa (Angulo), Scarpeccio, Cloquell, Duran (Gala), Girado, Pomarico.

Sport Boys: Carrizales, Reyes, Salazar, Guerrero, Quintana (sent off 85m), Gardella, Zorilla, Gil (sent off 85m), Lobaton, La Rosa, Laberte.

Referee: Guillermo Velazquez (Colombia).

June 2
PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) (1) 3 (Silva 2, Peralta)
ESTUDIANTES (Venezuela) (0) 0

Portuguesa: Garate, Marin, Marcenaro, Buzzo, Salas, Echenausi, Nito de Lima, Moss, Silva, Peralta, Nuñez (Jairzinho).

Estudiantes: Oriolo, Rivas, Scaminacci, Paez, Tello, Roa, Cloquell, Duran, Scarpeccio, Girado, Pomarico.

Att: 5,000

SPORT BOYS (Peru) 0
UNION HUARAL (Peru) 0

Group 5 (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa (Venezuela)	6	4	2	0	10	2	10
Union Huaral (Peru)	6	2	2	2	4	5	6
Estudiantes (Venezuela)	6	3	0	3	6	8	6
Sport Boys (Peru)	6	0	2	4	2	7	2

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

Universidad Autonoma (Mexico) 2 Real Madrid (Spain) 3 (May 29); Atlas (Mexico) 1 Real Madrid (Spain) 1 (June 1); Monterrey (Mexico) 1 Real Madrid 1 (June 3); Herediano (Costa Rica) 1 Racing Club (Argentina) 1; Barcelona (Ecuador) 1 Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) 1 (June 11); Estudiantes de Merida (Venezuela) 1 Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) 1 (June 12); Barquisimeto (Venezuela) 1 Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) 4 (June 16); Deportivo San Cristobal (Venezuela) 0 Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) 5 (June 19).

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Talleres Cordoba (Argentina) 1 Poland Select 0 (June 1); Independiente Medellin (Colombia) 2 Peru Select 3 (June 3); Newell's Old Boys de Rosario (Argentina) 0 Poland Select 1 (June 4); San Martin Tucuman (Argentina) 1 Poland Select 1 (June 6); Bolivia Select 0 Newell's Old Boys Rosario (Argentina) 3 (June 9); Gimnasia y Esgrima de Jujuy (Argentina) 1 Poland Select 2 (June 10); Uruguay Junior Select 0 Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) 6 (June 12); Peru Select 0 Newell's Old Boys Rosario (Argentina)0 (June 15); Bolivia Select 0 Talleres Cordoba (Argentina) 3 (June 16); Cipolletti Select (Argentina) 1 Poland Select 2 (June 16); El Salvador Select 1 Newell's Old Boys Rosario (Argentina) 1 (June 18); Haiti Select 0 Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) 0; Haiti Select 0 Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) 1 (June 20); Peru Select 0 River Plate (Argentina) 0 (June 23).

VENEZUELA: Venezuela Cup
(top two from each group play final round)

Group 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Valencia	9	5	3	1	13
Italia	9	2	6	1	10
Galicia	9	4	2	3	10
Portuguesa	9	3	4	2	10
Universitarios	8	2	2	4	6
Canarios	10	1	3	6	5

Group 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
Barquisimeto	7	3	3	1	9
Estudiantes	6	4	0	2	8
Portuguesa	5	3	1	1	7
San Cristobal	7	2	3	2	7
Atletico Zamora	7	0	1	6	1

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aviacion	8	6	2	0	12	3	14
Union Espanola	8	5	2	1	16	6	12
Everton	8	4	3	1	16	11	11
Colo Colo	8	5	1	2	15	12	11
Lota Schwager	8	2	6	0	14	11	10
Universidad de Chile	8	3	4	1	13	9	10
Concepcion	8	3	3	2	11	12	9
Wanderers	8	2	4	2	15	16	8
O'Higgins	8	3	2	3	11	10	8
Huachipato	8	3	1	4	11	11	7
Palestino	8	2	3	3	14	11	7
Green Cross	8	2	3	3	12	16	7
Nubiense	8	2	2	4	15	14	6
Ovalle	8	1	3	4	8	13	5
Universidad Catolica	8	1	3	4	8	12	5
Audax Italiano	8	2	1	5	10	15	5
Santiago Morning	8	1	3	4	5	10	5
Antofagasta	8	0	4	4	3	14	4

BRAZIL: Carioca League

(1st stage final standings — Guanabara Cup)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco da Gama	14	13	0	1	40	5	26
Flamengo	14	11	1	2	38	10	23
Botafogo	14	10	2	2	36	6	22
Fluminense	14	10	1	3	25	6	21
America	14	8	4	2	18	12	20
Bonsucesso	14	5	3	6	15	17	13
Bangu	14	1	10	3	11	19	12
Olaria	14	3	5	6	14	27	11
Americano	14	3	5	6	15	17	11
Sao Cristovao	14	4	3	7	14	27	11
Goytacaz	14	2	6	6	8	17	10
Madureira	14	2	4	8	6	17	8
Volta Redonda	14	2	4	8	8	22	8
Portuguesa	14	2	3	9	7	19	7
Campo Grande	14	2	3	9	8	31	7

West Germany were the best

June 5 v Argentina	Won 3-1
June 8 v Uruguay	Won 2-0
June 12 v Brazil	Drew 1-1
June 15 v Mexico	Drew 2-2

by ERIC WEIL

South American tours review

Continued from page 15

WORLD champions West Germany were the best team to hit South America in a long time when they played four games in 11 days (with a 2-2-0 record) here in June, wiping out bad memories of their last South American tour seven years ago when they failed to win a match.

On their showing here, even without Beckenbauer, they looked a formidable force capable of putting in a strong bid to retain the World Cup in Argentina next year . . . even if at the end of the tour coach Helmut Schoen said in Mexico that Argentina appeared to him as slight World Cup favourites, while he rated his own team third or fourth.

The Germans started their tour against Argentina where they were playing for the first time and it was also the first time in 10 years that they took the field without players of Bayern Munich.

It was the best game seen in Buenos Aires for many years. The local press called it "a lesson in football" and unanimously praised the Argentine team for managing to hold the Germans to 3-1. Schoen, on the other hand, was surprised at his team's good performance and called it an accident.

With only first teamers Vogts and Bonhof of their World Cup winning side of four years ago (goalkeeper Maier was injured), they gave a fine display of power soccer, team-work, lethal counter-attack (with no more than two or three passes) which made them look unbeatable. They left an Argentine team, playing their hearts out and full of confidence after their 3-1 win over Poland a week earlier, literally standing. The whole game was played at a terrific pace — with the Germans slightly faster.

Fischer — top scorer on tour with five of the eight goals after being involved in a bribery scandal which had kept him out of the national team for five years — headed West Germany into the lead after only seven minutes. Perhaps that made a difference to both teams. The other two goals came in the second half from Fischer (61m) and Holzenbein (69), while defender Passarella — always dangerous when going up — scored Argentina's consolation goal four minutes later. All four goals were headers.

But the biggest difference was in defence. West Germany's was absolutely watertight with sweeper Kaltz — who, Schoen hopes, will be able to replace Beckenbauer — outstanding in breaking up attacks on all sides. Argentina's defence, on the other hand, was slow to get into position and susceptible to high centres — which is how the goals came — while in attack once again Bertoni was the only home player to send dangerous shots at goal.

Dull game

Three days later, with five changes, West Germany were not the same team in Montevideo, but they were facing a Uruguayan team trying to avoid a big defeat at all costs by defence, close marking and hanging on to the ball as long as possible.

They succeeded in that West Germany scored only through Flohe just before half-time and Muller in the final minute, but the result was a dull game with a lot of midfield action, sometimes rough.

In Rio it was West Germany who adopted defensive tactics and caution in the next match against Brazil who attacked for almost the entire first half and most of the second. But the Brazilian forwards committed tactical errors against a tight defence which gave nothing away with Bonhoff, Beer and Vogts standing out.

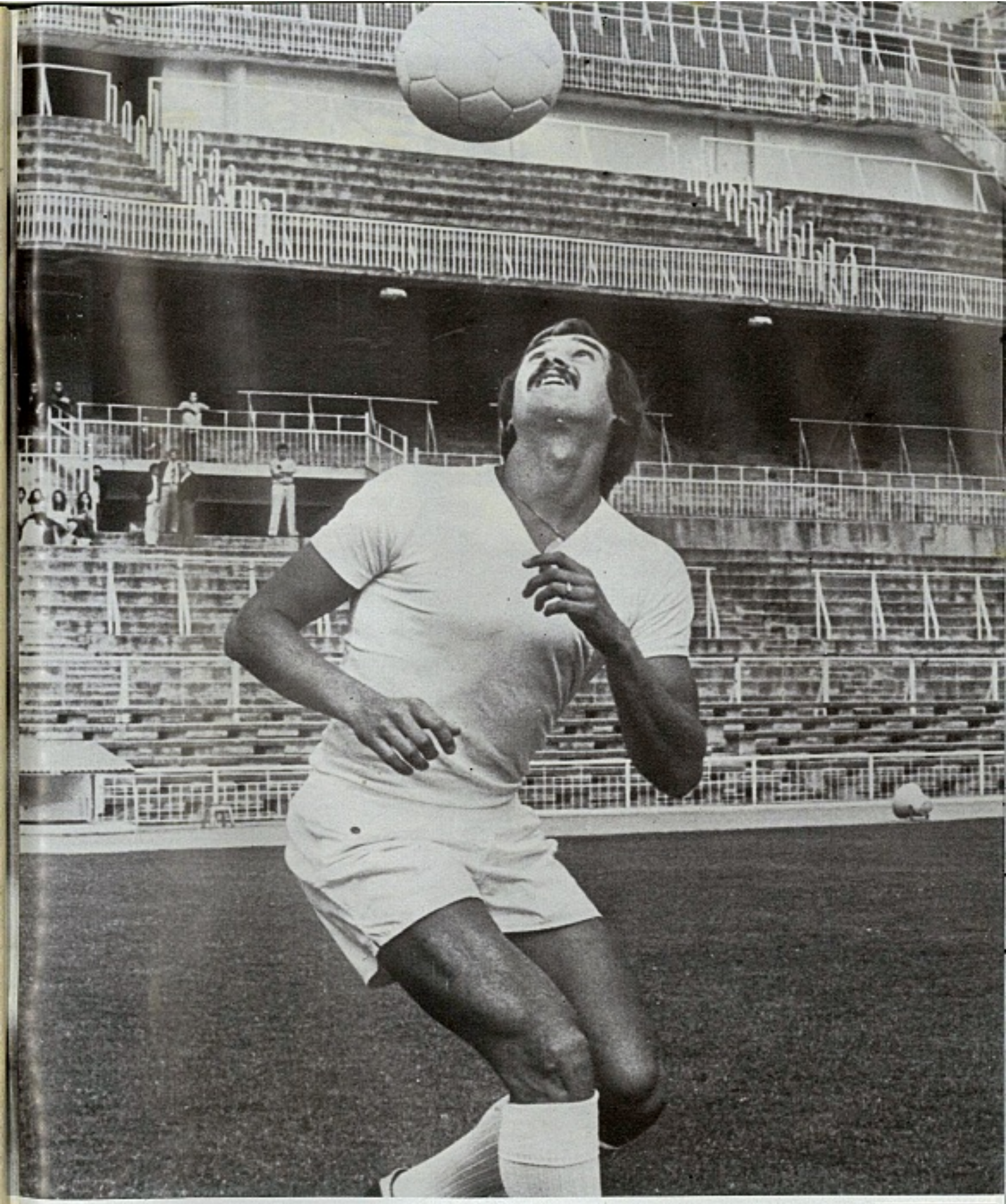
Appearance

Zico came close for Brazil just after half-time when his close in shot was blocked by Maier, but Fischer cleverly eluded the Brazilian defence — in which Luis Pereira, just returned from Spain, was obviously out of shape — to put the Germans ahead two minutes later. Brazil then went all out for the equaliser which came only four minutes from the end from veteran Rivelino who was making his 100th international appearance.

West Germany's defence didn't look quite so safe in the last match in Mexico as Isiorda and De La Torre gave the home team a 2-0 halftime lead. But Germany improved in the second half as Fischer came on for Muller to score twice in eight and 20 minutes with great opportunism.

(Full details of matches under Classified Results.)

West German defender Vogts tries to hold Bertoni, the only member of Argentina to trouble the German goal.



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